

INDICTED FOR CRIMES

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**Documents
of the International Commission
of Inquiry into
Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese
and Palestinian Peoples**

August-November 1982



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FOREWORD

Israel's open aggression against Lebanon in the summer of 1982 aroused a wave of indignation throughout the world. The attack on a sovereign state, the cold-blooded destruction of its capital, Beirut, the annihilation of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians, the massacres at refugee camps and the flouting of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights — all this was a flagrant violation of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and resolutions of its bodies, and elementary norms of human conduct. The crimes against humanity committed in Lebanon are of the same order as those committed by the fascists during the Second World War.

The world community, which has acquired considerable experience in the struggle for peace and the security of nations, cannot remain indifferent to acts of vandalism and international brigandage committed by 20th-century aggressors. Therefore, international and national public organizations, including political, trade union, religious, cultural and educational organizations, have taken a series of measures to put a stop to aggression, help its victims, establish the facts of Israeli crimes in Lebanon and condemn the culprit. One of these measures was the setting up of the International

Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples.

The Commission held its first sitting in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, in August 1982. This book contains documents and other material of this sitting, as well as of the sitting of the Commission's Medical Subcommittee held in Athens in November 1982.

The Commission is a public organization whose members are prominent lawyers and public figures in many countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. Its purpose is to establish and assess the facts of Israeli crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and call them to the attention of the world public and international organizations. The Commission has the firm support of a number of national organizations and is actively cooperating with other international commissions dealing with this matter.

At its first sitting in Nicosia the Commission examined a vast body of material—eyewitness accounts, testimonies, documents and material evidence—which provides convincing proof of the unprecedented facts of aggression, genocide and violations of the rules and customs of war on the part of the Israeli army in Lebanon in the summer of 1982. The final document adopted by the sitting is a comprehensive assessment of facts and evidence, and it draws the conclusion that the Israeli leaders have committed grave international crimes against peace and humanity, as well as war crimes the responsibility for which is defined in international legal documents.

Soviet public opinion fully supports the conclusions of the International Commission. A similar organization—the Soviet Public Commission of Inquiry into the Crimes of Israeli Aggressors in

Lebanon—has been set up in the Soviet Union with the aim of collecting and analyzing information concerning the crimes of Israeli aggressors and of assisting the International Commission in its noble effort.

Soviet people are understandably concerned over the Middle East conflict and call for a speedy solution to it. They strongly condemn Israel's intrusion into Lebanon and the brutal annihilation of the population of South and West Beirut. They are for the consistent implementation of the following principles which will ensure peace in this part of the world: strict observation of the principle of impermissibility of seizure of alien territory; recognition of the right to self-determination of the Arab people of Palestine and to establishing their own independent state; return of the eastern part of Jerusalem to the Arabs; ensuring the independent and secure existence of all Middle Eastern states; cessation of the state of war between Arab countries and Israel; and adoption of international guarantees of a Middle East settlement.

All this can be attained through collective efforts of the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. An international conference could be the best instrument for working out a solution to the problem, one that will bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

It has always been the Soviet Union's policy to support the just struggle for national freedom, against imperialist policies of oppression and dictation. The peoples fighting for independence know that they can count on the solidarity of all socialist countries and of the world public which has consistently upheld peace and democracy and the vital interests of working people in all continents. The

International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples, which reflects world public opinion, is making its contribution to the cause of freedom of the peoples and the cause of universal peace.

*V. N. KUDRYAVTSEV,
Corresponding Member of the
USSR Academy of Sciences
Chairman of the Soviet Public
Commission of Inquiry into the
Crimes of Israeli Aggressors in Lebanon
Director of the Institute of the State and
Law, USSR Academy of Sciences*

STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

The International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples, set up on August 14-15, 1982, in Nicosia, Cyprus, will be ruled and guided by the following provisions:

I

The Commission is an independent body responsible for its own activity. Its members take part in the commission's work as individuals, not as representatives of organizations or states. Participation in its hearings of observers from governmental or nongovernmental organizations is welcomed.

II

Being an inquiry body, the function of this Commission is to collect, elucidate and evaluate facts and events within the scope of inquiry set forth in these Statutes by means of conscientious investigation.

Thus, the Commission shall not be regarded as a court. It has neither the power nor the competence of a court. Its authority lies in the quality and integrity of the work it performs. The only sanction at the disposal of the Commission is a moral judgement of humanity to whose verdict it submits itself and its work.

III

The Commission shall deal with all questions it deems proper, concerning Israeli crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

IV

The Commission shall use all methods of work enabling it to draw conclusions on the basis of comprehensive and reliable information about the occurrence and extent of acts and events within the scope of the subject matter referred to above.

V

The Commission shall elect from among its members a Presidential Committee and shall appoint a Permanent Secretariat headed by a Secretary General.

The proceedings of the Commission shall be conducted by the Presidential Committee which will nominate chairmen of meetings.

VI

The Commission has the right to admit new permanent members, as well as local members to take part in sessions in any particular country or region. All members have equal rights. A decision concerning admission requires a two-thirds majority of those present at the session.

VII

In its work the Commission shall:

- a) consider reports, documents, oral statements and other material received from any international or national organization as well as from individuals;
- b) send missions for investigation and inspection;
- c) undertake the maximum cooperation with other commissions or organizations with similar objectives and with other specialists or experts on the subject.

VIII

The Commission may form standing or temporary subcommittees on any aspect of its activity. Standing subcommittees shall be headed by a member appointed by the Committee and may include other specialists or experts on the subject. Heads of temporary subcommittees shall be appointed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Presidential Committee.

IX

Preparations for the sessions of the Commission shall be made by the Secretariat of the Commission. The Secretariat is responsible for the adoption and implementation of the decisions of the Commission.

X

The proceedings of the Commission shall be public, with the exception of meetings concerning organizational matters or meetings devoted to the evaluation of evidence and to the formulation of the findings of the Commission.

XI

The Commission shall hold sessions in appropriate places in different parts of the world.

XII

For the continuation of its activities—meetings, missions of investigation, publications, etc.—the Commission will appeal to governmental and non-governmental bodies, as well as to individuals for voluntary donations.

XIII

These Statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Commission.

LIST OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSION IN NICOSIA, August 1982

Members of the Presidential Committee of the Commission

John Platts-Mills	Barrister; Queen's Counsellor (United Kingdom)
Dorothy Crowfoot-Hodgkin	Scientist; Nobel Prize Laureate (United Kingdom)
D. A. Desai	Justice of the Supreme Court (India)
Lars Carlzon	Bishop of Stockholm (Sweden)
Mikis Theodorakis	Member of Parliament; composer (Greece)
Boubacar Seck	Member of Parliament (Senegal)
Marshal Francisco da Costa Gomes	Former President of the Republic of Portugal (Portugal)
Pirkko Työläjärvi	Vice-Chairman of the Social Democratic Party (Finland)

Secretary General of the Commission

John Platts-Mills	Barrister; Queen's Counsellor (United Kingdom)
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Members of the Secretariat

Paulette Pierson-Mathy	Professor of International Law (Belgium)
Alexander Berkov	Doctor of Constitutional Law (USSR)
Gerhard Stuby	Professor of Law (FRG)

Members of the Commission

John Takman	Physician (Sweden)
Vladimir Kudryavtsev	Director, Institute of the State and Law of the Academy of Sciences (USSR)
Gerald Horne	Professor of Law (USA)
Jaya Pathirana	Former Judge of the Supreme Court (Sri Lanka)
Monique Chemillier-Gendreau	Professor of International Law (France)
Evangelos Malheras	President of the Lawyers' Association (Greece)
Florence Hetzler	Professor of Philosophy (USA)
Miguel d'Estefano Pisani	Professor of International Law (Cuba)
Willi Sommersfeld	Doctor of International Law (GDR)
Jules Borker	Lawyer (France)
Slavtcho Transki	Member of Parliament, one of the leaders of the Resistance during World War II (Bulgaria)

Ervin Réti	Expert on Middle East Affairs (Hungary)
Ernie Ross (observer)	Member of Parliament (United Kingdom)

Reporters and Witnesses

Hans Göran Franck	Lawyer (Sweden)
Albert Farhat	Lawyer; Lebanese National Movement (Lebanon)
Sinan Barrage	Lawyer; Lebanese National Movement (Lebanon)
Rudolf El-Kareh	University Professor (Lebanon)
Taysir Quba	Member of the Central Council of the PLO
Leena Saraste	Photographer (Finland)
Mikko Lohikoski	Journalist (Finland)
Pirkko Parviainen	Physiotherapist (Finland)
Claude Pierre Lien	Physician (France)
Jean-Yves Follezou	Physician (France)
Marianne Moeller	Social worker (Norway)
Oyvind Moeller	Social worker (Norway)
Constantinos Alexiou	Surgeon (Greece)
Israel Shahak	Professor of Biochemistry; President of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights (Israel)
Joseph Algazy	Historian; Secretary of the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights (Israel)

Tineke Vlug	Nurse (The Netherlands)
Loukas Floros	Physician (Greece)
Thanasis Papageorgiou	Physician (Greece)
Chris Giannou	Surgeon (Canada)
Franklin Lamb	Lawyer (USA)

MESSAGE

from Nicos A. Rolandis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, to the Participants in the Sitting of the Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples

I wish to welcome to Cyprus all the participants in this meeting of the Commission of Inquiry which has set as its noble aim the investigation of the crimes committed by the Israeli aggressor against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, in defiance of the principles of justice, morality and human dignity.

On July 15, 1982, I had the honour to chair the Extraordinary Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries on the question of Palestine. The Nicosia Non-Aligned Meeting expressed its full support for the Palestinian cause, condemned the Israeli aggression and established a Ministerial Committee for the purpose of following closely the developments in Lebanon and pursuing contacts within the scope of its mandate. The Committee has visited three capitals of member countries of the Security Council—Paris, Moscow and Warsaw, and it plans further visits in order to fulfill its mission.

I consider it natural that Nicosia has been chosen

as the venue of the Commission's work, for Cyprus, which lies in the vicinity of Lebanon, has its own problem to resolve, being itself also a victim of aggression and injustice.

As I said at the opening session of the Nicosia Non-Aligned Meeting "the government and people of Cyprus feel deeply the suffering of the people of Palestine because in many ways we are a replica of their own experience and their own plight."

Since the first day of the Israeli aggression in Lebanon the world has witnessed horrid acts of terror, untold suffering and loss of life of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The international community must not only condemn the atrocities committed but raise its voice firmly to defend the dignity of man and the values that are so flagrantly trampled upon by aggression and violence.

Beirut in the summer of 1982 set an example of bravery, manifesting a noble and immortal human spirit in face of Israeli aggression.

Beirut in the summer of 1982 demonstrated both the depth of depravity and the height of nobility of the human being.

You are going to be the judges of the depravity, the cruelty, the inhumanity and the crimes.

Beirut in the summer of 1982 brought back to the world a stirring message, that of the renaissance of virtue.

I hope and trust that your work will be fruitful and I wish you every success during your stay on our island.

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO SYRIA AND LEBANON BY PAULETTE PIERSON-MATHY (Belgium)

The international mission, in preparation for the session of the Commission, visited Damascus (Syria) and Lebanon from August 8 to 14 in order to collect evidence of crimes committed by Israel in its war of aggression against the Lebanese state and the Palestinian people.

This mission included Mr. Mikis Theodorakis, member of the Greek Parliament, Mr. Hans Göran Franck, representative of the Social Democratic Party of Sweden and Mrs. Paulette Pierson-Mathy, professor at the Law Faculty of Brussels University.

The mission was received in Damascus by the Bureau of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the leadership of the Lebanese National Movement and the Committee of Solidarity with Palestine consisting of Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese representatives.

The mission had talks with leading figures of these organizations, namely, with Mr. Abdul Mosehn Abou Meizer, member of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Mr. George Habr of the Lebanese National Movement and Mr. Moris Salebi, representative of the Syrian Peace Movement in the framework of the Committee of Solidarity with Palestine.

In Damascus, the mission visited two hospitals where wounded civilians and soldiers were treated: the Jaffa Hospital of the Palestine Red Crescent and the Syrian Harasta Military Hospital. The two hospitals had seriously wounded people—Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and people of other nationalities.

The majority of the wounded had been under treatment for several weeks already, some of them from the very first days of the invasion. The hospital had become less crowded because 500 wounded who required further treatment had been sent abroad, to countries that accepted them.

Most of the wounded we met were victims of weapons banned under humanitarian law, weapons which inflict severe and numerous wounds or intense and deep burns. The weapons most used were fragmentation and phosphorus bombs and shells, as well as booby-trapped toys; one "doll" had caused the death of several children and horribly wounded some others, among them, a boy of 7 whom we saw in that hospital. The majority of the wounded were from Southern Lebanon and Bekaa. Many of them had had their limbs amputated.

Afterwards the mission went to Lebanon. For security reasons, Mr. Mikis Theodorakis, who had received death threats from Phalangist elements, could not go to the part of Lebanon occupied by the Israeli army. He visited the Lebanese areas and Palestinian camps destroyed by the Israeli army in Bekaa. He also went to Tripoli where he had talks with representatives of the Lebanese National Movement and the PLO.

Mr. Mikis Theodorakis was received by the former President of Lebanon, Mr. Frangie, and had talks with Mr. Karamé, former Prime Minister of Lebanon.

The other members of the mission went to Southern Lebanon and Beirut.

In East Beirut, which is occupied by the Israeli invasion forces, the mission had talks with representatives of the International Red Cross, the General Secretary of the Lebanese Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and with representatives of the diplomatic missions of Sweden and Belgium, direct witnesses of the invasion and occupation of Lebanon by the Israeli forces and of the siege of West Beirut.

The members of the mission walked through the suburbs of South and East Beirut, along the road to Sidon and visited the locality of Khalde entirely destroyed by the invasion forces. They could see from the road the Palestinian refugee camp of Damour occupied by the Israeli armed forces. The population of the camp had been driven away and the camp itself transformed into a military bridgehead of the occupation forces.

All along the road, the mission could note numerous destroyed civilian targets and large-scale Israeli military deployment.

The members of the mission visited the districts of Sidon destroyed by the invasion forces, right in the center of the town. They went to different refugee camps in the suburbs of the town, camps completely destroyed, even razed with bulldozers. They talked with women, children and old people who were barely surviving in those ruins.

A more detailed report will contain the most important evidence and findings of the mission concerning the systematic destruction of houses, schools and hospitals according to an organized plan of annihilation of the population and of all economic and social structures.

In East Beirut, the mission members could observe how Israeli soldiers handled foreign newsmen

and censored their material. They also witnessed an intensive bombing of West Beirut from ground, sea and air on August 12, which lasted more than 10 hours.

The mission was also in West Beirut, where it was received by Dr. Fathi Arafat, President of the Directing Committee of the Palestinian Red Crescent. It visited two hospitals for first aid: one established in the underground of the theology (Lahut) school, the other in a former hostel of the American University. The members of the mission saw severe burns caused by phosphorus bombs during the bombing the day before. The majority of the people were disfigured and their bodies were covered with deep burns. They were Lebanese and Palestinian civilians who escaped death from Israeli bombs dropped on a shelter in Southern Lebanon, where more than 100 people had died, all civilians. The members of the mission noted the considerable difficulties in which medical teams were working. They also evaluated the devastating effects of the policy of extermination pursued by the Israeli armed forces against the population of West Beirut, as well as of the blockade: the cutting off of water and electricity supply, and the banning of deliveries of medicines, food and fuel to West Beirut, even those from the International Red Cross.

The members of the mission walked through the worst destroyed districts of West Beirut and discovered buildings of seven or eight floors which had collapsed as castles made of cards. The mission also visited the Gaza Hospital of the Palestine Red Crescent which had been shelled by Israeli artillery. The mission members saw the destroyed Arab University and the stadium.

The mission had a discussion with Mr. Mahmoud

Labadi, official spokesman for the PLO, who showed and explained the functioning of the different types of banned arms employed by the Israeli army, a big number of which had been made in the US.

The mission was also received by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Mr. Yasser Arafat, and informed him of the objectives of the sitting of the Commission in Nicosia.

Yasser Arafat appealed to the lawyers and other participants in the Commission's sitting in Nicosia to put all necessary pressure on the Western countries to force Israel to cease immediately its criminal blockade of Beirut and to make known to international public opinion the whole scale of crimes committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples by Israel with the support of the United States. He reaffirmed his conviction that the only way for the restoration of durable peace in the Middle East lay in the reestablishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

TESTIMONY OF DR. CHRIS GIANNOU (Canada)

For the last two years I have been a surgeon with the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). I was Medical Director of the Nabatiyeh Hospital and most recently was working in Sidon, Lebanon, during hostilities there. I am not a spokesman nor representative of the Lebanese Government, nor of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

I was detained by Israeli authorities from June 13th to June 15th in Sidon, Lebanon, and then until June 20th in the Magido prison in the north of Israel. The Israeli authorities denied holding me and my two Norwegian colleagues in detention until June 18th, in spite of presentation by the Canadian and Norwegian Foreign Ministries. I was released from Israeli prison on June 20th. I was not released into the custody of the Canadian Embassy, nor was I expelled from the country, and no charges were ever made against me. We were released and are free today to appear before this Commission because we are holders of Canadian and Norwegian passports. My colleagues of various nationalities are still in custody. Surgeons, general practitioners, male nurses, para-medical technicians and ambulance drivers are still being detained because they are not in possession of passports such as ours.

I feel a little like a character from Dante. I have seen hell and returned. Many others were not quite so fortunate.

I have been a witness to the total, utter devastation of residential areas, and the blind, savage, indiscriminate destruction of refugee camps by simultaneous shelling and carpet bombing from aircraft, gunboats, tanks and artillery. The scene in the refugee camp of Ain El-Helweh, several square kilometres large with a population just prior to hostilities of between 60,000 and 80,000, was one of an apocalypse. Now, not a single dwelling was left intact. There were areas where one could no longer distinguish where roads had been and where buildings had once stood. All that remained were large blackened craters filled with rubble and debris, broken concrete slabs and twisted iron bars, and corpses. The topography of certain areas had been changed. Nature itself seemed to have been injured. There is a contradiction here: an area of several square kilometers, with a population density of 15,000 to 20,000 per square kilometer, is razed, and yet the civilian population is said to have been spared.

I have been a witness to hospitals being shelled. The government hospital in Ain El-Helweh, across the road from the main refugee camp, was hit on five or six separate occasions. The first shell hit the water pipes on the first floor and we were obliged to drink intravenous infusions for the succeeding days. Another shell hit the emergency reception area.

I have been a witness to women and children being allowed to pass through Israeli lines back into the refugee camp on June 11, and the shelling of the camp resuming two hours later. I have been a witness to a reign of confusion amongst the

civilian population in and around the camp. Leaflets had been dropped from Israeli airplanes telling people to cross over Israeli lines to get out of the zone of hostilities. Very few of the leaflets fell into the camp itself. Israeli authorities later stated that they had also used loudspeakers, but we in the hospital never heard them. It was never clear where exactly the people were supposed to go. At one point, on June 9, between 3,000 and 4,000 civilians had taken refuge in the hospital, mostly women, children and elderly people. And the shelling of the hospital continued with all these people in it.

I have been a witness to the use of cluster bombs, as early as June 5 in the city of Nabatiyeh, and later in the camp of Ain El-Helweh. The sound of these bombs exploding in the middle of the refugee camp is unmistakable: hundreds of little detonations resembling a pitched battle of small fire. I have seen the calcinated, carbonized bodies of the victims of phosphorus bombs. I have treated minor skin wounds covering mangled bone and muscle caused by the shrapnel of concussion bombs.

During the evacuation of the government hospital I counted no less than 300 cadavers in the peripheral areas of the Ain El-Helweh camp. I saw 40 to 50 cadavers in the emergency reception area and 20 inside the hospital amongst my patients, including a woman killed by shrapnel from a shell that had landed in the hospital garden and who left a new-born baby. I later saw another 25 corpses in one of the large private hospitals of the city of Sidon (Ghassan Hammoud Hospital). The above figures do not include information concerning other victims in the city.

I have been a witness to the entire male staff of the PRCS (Palestine Red Crescent Society) medical team in Sidon and Nabatiyeh being taken into

custody, prevented from continuing their medical duties and being treated as ordinary prisoners without any respect. The PRCS, once one of the main institutions for medical services in Southern Lebanon with three hospitals, numerous out-patient clinics and a center for mentally retarded children and for occupational rehabilitation where Mr. and Mrs. Moeller worked, no longer exists there.

I have been a witness to men being taken prisoner upon the denunciation of hooded collaborators, neither accuser or accusations ever being made known to us. The entire male population of Sidon which had crossed Israeli lines to get out of the zone of hostilities were herded onto the beach and then taken one by one, and paraded past three parked jeeps. In each jeep sat a man wearing a hood with slits for the eyes or a blanket wrapped around him to cover his face, an Israeli soldier sitting next to each one. As the men paraded past, a number of them would be singled out, pulled from the line, a large "X" or something in Hebrew written on their backs, then placed against a wall. In this way, there were 4,000 to 5,000 men arrested, including myself, two Norwegian colleagues, and the entire male medical staff of the PRCS in Sidon. I later learned that the same situation prevailed in Tyre, and that the PRCS staff there suffered a similar fate.

This was the most terrifying experience of all. One could learn to cope with the fighting. But when you stand in front of someone who is hidden behind a mask, you cannot defend yourself. You cannot even try to explain. You don't know what you are accused of and are completely at the mercy of some informers.

After being taken into custody, the prisoners were led to a convent school and placed there in the

school yard. There were 500 to 600 prisoners at any one time in the yard, and new groups of prisoners were being continuously brought in, while others were being taken out. The conditions of detention were difficult: hands bound, stiffling heat, food and water in short supply. Prisoners would be taken into one of three classrooms, used for interrogation purposes. I myself was interrogated five times during the four days that I was kept there. During one of my interrogations, I could hear blows struck in the next room and then I saw the prisoner. His face was puffed up, eyes blackened and blood was trickling from the corner of his mouth. The scene in the school yard, too, was one of savage and indiscriminate beatings of the prisoners. A prisoner would call out for water and told that there was none. When he continued to call out, he would be insulted and then a guard would wade into the crowd and start to beat him. The physical abuse ranged from simple punching and kicking to beatings with wooden sticks, plastic hose or even pieces of rope with nuts and bolts tied to the ends. One Palestinian, Dr. Nabil, was at one point hung by his hands from a tree and beaten. An Iraqi surgeon, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim, was beaten by several guards viciously and left to lie in the sun with his face buried in the sand. Other surgeons and doctors were also beaten: Dr. Ahmed Soubra, a Lebanese; Drs. Saifeddin, Mohammad Iman and Shafiq El-Islam from Bangladesh. The two Norwegians and I were not beaten. I was struck only once. It was obvious that orders had been given that we were not to be molested. The darker-skinned Arabs, Africans and Asians (Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Indians) were among those beaten the most severely.

I have been a witness to four prisoners being

beaten to death. I was asked by an Israeli soldier to examine two of the bodies. Mr. Berge examined another two corpses and saw another five or six piled into an ambulance.

I have been a witness to the Israeli officers and even the military governor of Sidon, a Colonel Arnon Mozer, being present at these beatings and doing nothing about it. I have also been a witness to several of the Israeli guards attempting to stop the beatings and to actual arguments breaking out amongst those doing the beating and those who attempted to have them stopped. Mrs. Moeller, who remained in the hospital after we had been detained, has stated that one of the patients died, and others suffered severe complications because no other medical services were made available to them.

Conditions of detention in the prison at Magido were much improved; water and food were available and we were no longer bound. But only a small minority of the prisoners were detained inside the prison: the two Norwegians and I, a couple of hundred Egyptian nationals who were being rehearsed by an Israeli officer to shout "Long live Begin", and a dual Lebanese-Austrian national who had spent several days in the fields around the prison with several thousand other prisoners. The conditions there, in the fields, resembled those of the school yard in Sidon: the prisoners bound and left out in the open with food and water rationed, and a continuation of the beating. After two days there, we were handcuffed, blindfolded, and taken out of the cell and into the prison compound. We were kept there for 48 hours during which time we were interrogated in a wooden shack in the yard.

We were finally taken to Tel Aviv on the evening of June 20, and released at the Foreign Military Attaché Liaison Office.

REPORT BY STEINAR BERGE AND OYVIND MOELLER (Norway)

This report is based on the statement made by Dr. Steinar Berge and child-care worker Oyvind Moeller at the Norwegian Department of Foreign Affairs on June 24, 1982. Both were members of the health team of the Palestine Front of Norway in Sidon.

The team worked in accordance with an agreement between the Norwegian Palestine Front and the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

Present from the Department of Foreign Affairs were:

- 1) Regional Adviser Hans Wilhelm Longva
- 2) Assistant Secretary Bjarne Lindstrom
- 3) First Consultant Lars A. Wensell
- 4) First Consultant Peter N. Raeder
- 5) Staff member Steffen Kongstad

The following members of the health team of the Palestine Front were also present: Marianne Moeller, Liv Berit Bredby and Berit Fiksdal.

The purpose of the meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs was to collect a thorough account of the circumstances concerning the arrest of Berge and Moeller on June 13, 1982, the treatment of Berge and Moeller while in Israeli captivity from June 13 to June 20 and Berge's and Moeller's eye-

witness account of the treatment of co-prisoners during captivity.

The meeting took place on the initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The statements were taped and this tape has to a great extent been the basis for the compilation of the report.

The translation from Norwegian into English is "unauthorized" and was made by the Norwegian Palestine Front. Any inaccuracies in this English version are therefore the responsibility of this organization.

The circumstances under which Steinar Berge and Oyvind Moeller were arrested

Berge and Moeller were arrested at a check-point the Israelis had established on the street which leads down to the beach in Sidon and where they had to come up for control. Those who passed the check-point got a stamp in their passports. As Berge and Moeller conceived it, the stamp signified that one was recognized by the Israelis, and that the stamp gave freedom of movement within a certain area.

Berge and Moeller presented themselves for control on June 12 and passed it.

When Berge and Moeller turned up at this check-point again on June 13, it was to accompany a Canadian and a Palestinian doctors.

The reason why Berge and Moeller accompanied the two doctors to the check-point on June 13 was that they wanted to see if they would be arrested. The rest of the Palestinian personnel at the hospital had already been arrested, including the anesthetical doctor. So if the surgeon, a Canadian, was also arrested, they would have to close the hospital. When Berge and Moeller passed the control and

received the necessary stamps the day before, they thought they were recognized or approved of and so had freedom of movement.

Those who were being checked had to pass from one check-point to another on the opposite side of the street. Between the two check-points there were three cars parked and sitting in them were masked informers who were pointing out whom to arrest. Berge and Moeller do not know the identity of the informers. When they passed between those two check-points, they were arrested by personnel they identified as Israeli soldiers. Neither Berge nor Moeller was given any opportunity to identify themselves.

After the arrest Berge and Moeller were taken to a school where those arrested were kept.

They showed their valid Norwegian passports with valid Lebanese entry visas, valid Lebanese identity cards, from which it was clear that they had valid residence and work permits for Lebanon, and identity cards issued by the Palestine Red Crescent Society which made it clear that they were civilian health personnel. These identity cards were white, clearly "labelled" with the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and had a picture of the owner with the PRCS stamp. Moeller's identity cards were taken away from him during the imprisonment, while Berge still kept his and could show them during the meeting at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Before the arrest, on June 12 Berge and Moeller met Israeli Colonel Arnon Mozer at the check-point. They complained about the difficult conditions at the hospital following the arrest of 90 per cent of the male personnel on June 11, and said they particularly needed an anesthetical doctor for the many operations which had to be performed immediately.

Following the meeting with Col. Mozer on June 12, it was agreed upon another meeting with him on June 13 at 10 a.m. After waiting for him at his office until 12 o'clock, Berge and Moeller attended a meeting held by the Israelis for civilian health personnel in Sidon to discuss cooperation in the organization of health care in the town. The meeting was chaired by an Israeli doctor (a psychiatrist, as he introduced himself). The Red Crescent Hospital, just across the street, where we worked was not one of the hospitals listed for this cooperation. Subsequently Berge considered their invitation to that meeting a mistake on the part of the Israelis. Berge and Moeller were arrested when they came back directly from the meeting. Already the same afternoon Mozer saw Berge and Moeller, now as prisoners. Berge and Moeller do not doubt for a moment that Col. Mozer recognized them, although no conversation had taken place between Mozer and Berge or Moeller. Mozer was standing about two meters from Moeller and they looked at each other.

Neither Berge nor Moeller were given any reason for their arrest either at the moment of arrest or during captivity. Moeller at one point was given this answer to his question concerning the reason for the arrest: "We are interested to know who you are." The soldiers, whom Berge and Moeller thought were guards of the prisoners, accused them of belonging to "Baader-Meinhof" and of being "murderers", of having "worked for murderers" and of having "helped hide PLO members".

Marianne Moeller, Oyvind Moeller's wife, said that she had been informed by Col. Arnon Mozer that the reason for the arrest of Oyvind Moeller was that he "had helped PLO members and terrorists to escape from the hospital". Arnon Mozer had

not been willing to give Mrs. Moeller information about Steinar Berge. Oyvind Moeller said that during his imprisonment he had not heard any accusation like the one Mozer had referred to when speaking with Mrs. Moeller. Both Moeller and Mrs. Moeller stressed that this accusation was unjustified, and that it would be impossible to help anybody whom the Israelis were after to escape from the hospital because of the strict Israeli control.

Immediately after their arrest on June 13, Berge and Moeller were taken to a school yard in Sidon where they were kept for about 36 hours. On June 15, in the morning, they were taken to another collection camp at the Safar Citrus Corporation, two or three kilometers south of Sidon. The next day, June 16, they were taken to the Magido prison in Israel. On June 20, in the evening, they were released and handed over to the Norwegian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Shortly after the arrest a red cross and some sort of a crescent sign were painted on the back of Moeller's shirt. Berge got a number of Hebrew letters in black on the back of his shirt. Berge and Moeller did not know what these labels meant and they could not tell if prisoners with different labels were treated differently.

After they had reached the school they were first taken into a small school yard where they had to stand on their knees with their hands tied up behind their backs.

Later they were taken into a bigger open ground where they were forced to stand on their knees, with their heads bowed. Later their hands were tied in front and the guards permitted them to "look up". They had to sit like this for about 36 hours continuously without being allowed to move. In the daytime they sat in the sun and were torment-

ed by the scorching heat, and at nights they suffered from cold.

There were seven armoured cars, personnel carriers, encircling the ground, each equipped with a heavy machine-gun pointed at the prisoners.

Berge and Moeller were not beaten by Israeli soldiers during their imprisonment, but other prisoners were.

During interrogation on June 14, in the evening, Berge was told to examine a corpse which lay outside. He had the impression that the purpose was to check if he was really a doctor. Close to the body Berge had to examine there were five or six other corpses piled in a car. The examining officer told Berge and Moeller that in his view they would be released. This, however, did not happen.

They were taken to the Magido prison in Israel. There they had to lie down for about 48 hours on what they describe as "the interrogation ground". They were handcuffed and blindfolded all the time.

According to both Berge and Moeller there was extensive use of violence against prisoners on the bigger open ground at the school in Sidon. Berge and Moeller estimate the number of prisoners on that ground at between 500 and 600, and they believe that roughly one half of them were beaten up.

The weapons used were thick, solid table legs, round or square. Use was also made of long sticks, baton-like with some elasticity. These sticks were up to one meter long and about two centimeters thick. Long stiff plastic tubes were also used for beating, as well as thick ropes, often with big knots on the ends. Moeller on one occasion saw a rope with a piece of metal attached to the end of it used for the same purpose. On another occasion he saw a club or table leg with a nail on the end.

The soldiers used plastic straps tied together to form a whip. The captives were continuously beaten with fists and rifle butts and kicked with boots. Shots were fired in the air right above their heads. Violence went on throughout the day and ended in the evening.

The captives were most often hit in the stomach, the chest, on the shoulders and in the groin. Berge and Moeller noticed that the plastic straps, which were used for tying up the hands of the captives, were flat and with sharp edges.

On the first day in the school yard Moeller saw a group of prisoners being taken in. There were at least five people in it. Their hands were tied behind their backs and they were blindfolded. When they came into the yard they were placed in a row beside Moeller. An Israeli soldier stood before the captives. He kicked them in the groin with his knee one after another and as they doubled, he hit them on their necks with his hand and they fell to the ground. Then he kicked them right in the face and stomach. After that he left them on the ground crouching with pain.

In another case an old man, evidently in despair, got up and tried to kick an Israeli soldier. Four, five soldiers at once fell on the man whose hands were tied behind his back. He was beaten to the ground and then the Israeli soldiers beat him continuously with wooden sticks and cudgels for some 10 minutes. The man remained on the ground lifeless. His wrists were tied to his ankles and he was left lying on the ground.

Neither Berge nor Moeller saw the man being removed from the ground. Later while Moeller was waiting to enter for interrogation he saw the man lying right outside the window with three others.

The second day Berge and Moeller were at the

Sidon school they saw a doctor whom they knew from the Red Crescent Hospital. The doctor, whose name was Dr. Nabil, was from the West Bank of the Jordan and had been educated at the University of Barcelona. Dr. Nabil was responsible for preventive care at the Red Crescent clinic. When Berge and Moeller saw him in the school yard he had a rope around his neck and was led around by Israeli soldiers as other soldiers hit him with sticks. The next day Berge and Moeller saw him at the collection camp south of Sidon. He was then sitting staring blankly in front of him. He had deep wounds on his neck and marks on his back.

At both ends of the school grounds in Sidon, there were poles for basketball nets. There were also other poles which Berge and Moeller believed to be either handball goals or swings. To these poles captives were regularly tied up and beaten. Often they were just left there tied to the poles.

Berge and Moeller also pointed out that many of the prisoners in the school grounds in Sidon did not get enough water. When the soldiers came with water, the captives became "desperate", got to their feet and asked for water. The soldiers would distribute a little to some of them and throw the rest into their faces. Then they would start to beat the captives to make them sit down again. Afterwards shots would be fired above their heads.

This was repeated several times. At the collection camp south of Sidon Berge talked to a man who was suffering terribly and who said he had not had any water for three days.

Berge and Moeller had the impression that the maltreatment of captives, which they witnessed in the school grounds in Sidon, was on the initiative of the soldiers and not on orders from officers. On the other hand, it was also their impression that

the officers didn't care about what was happening in the school yard. They were there all the time, but did nothing to intervene.

Berge and Moeller observed that a few of the soldiers didn't take part in the maltreatment of the prisoners. They treated the captives as good as they could under the circumstances, and seemed to keep aloof from what was happening.

Most of the soldiers took part in maltreating the prisoners. One of them, who was specially vicious, told Berge and Moeller that he had many friends in Oslo and that he was from a kibbutz in Israel. He had curly hair and a string of pearls around his neck. Berge and Moeller believe they would be able to recognize both this and other soldiers who took part in beating up the captives.

According to Berge and Moeller there was less violence in the Safar collection camp south of Sidon than at the school in Sidon. In this camp the first two Israeli doctors turned up to give some of the prisoners medical treatment.

Then Berge and Moeller were taken to Israel by bus. On board the bus all the captives, apart from Berge and Moeller and the Canadian surgeon Chris Giannou, had their hands tied behind their backs and were blindfolded. There were two soldiers on the bus. Both had submachine-guns and clubs. The bus was escorted by one car in front and one behind. The soldiers hit the captives on the head and body repeatedly. On the way the bus stopped at several places to let in soldiers and civilians who wanted "to look at the prisoners". On some occasions people coming on board the bus also hit the captives.

On arrival at the Magido prison in Israel Berge and Moeller were blindfolded. They had not left the bus with other prisoners. When the remaining

prisoners left the bus Berge and Moeller heard that they were being beaten.

During interrogation at the Magido prison where Berge and Moeller were kept for 48 hours, they heard the screams of prisoners being beaten.

Berge considered that the dead prisoners he saw could be victims of beatings for which they had received no medical treatment.

Berge and Moeller stated that it was possible they had not registered what happened around them well enough, and that therefore their account could be incomplete and lacking in detail. On the other hand, both Berge and Moeller were convinced that their account was basically a correct one.

Berge and Moeller mentioned the use of violence for the first time to the Norwegian Ambassador in Tel Aviv immediately after their release on June 20. They also told about it to the President of the Norwegian Red Cross, Mr. Bjorn Egge.

DIARY OF A NORWEGIAN MEDICAL TEAM

The team was in Ain El-Helweh and Sidon during the Israeli invasion in June 1982. The members of the team are:

Steinar Berge,	33,	physician
Liv Berit Bredby,	28,	nurse
Berit Fiksdal,	27,	nurse
Josephine Habbab,	27,	child care worker
Marianne Moeller,	25,	child care worker
Oyvind Moeller,	29,	child care worker
Pirkko Parviainen,	27,	physiotherapist

Some of them were working in Hetteen before the invasion. Hetteen is a rehabilitation center for mental and physically handicapped children and grownups in Ain El-Helweh. Others were working in a health clinic in the same refugee camp.

The Hetteen center was established as a result of cooperation between the Palestine Front of Norway and the PRCS (Palestine Red Crescent Society).

During the invasion the Ain El-Helweh camp was completely destroyed, including the buildings of the center.

Friday, June 4, 1982

The whole group was in Beirut together with a Norwegian delegation when the Israelis bombed the capital.

The attack lasted for one and a half hours. After that we went around the city to look at the damage, and among other ruins, at the football stadium, which was, according to the Israelis, a weapon depot.

"Nothing I saw had anything to do with military installations," says Oyvind, "but I know that many political organizations had their offices there. It was also said that a food store was there."

We also visited the Gaza Hospital, a PRCS hospital in Beirut. The hospital had not been directly hit, but one of the floors had been partly destroyed by the blasts caused by explosions in the neighbourhood. One member of the personnel had been killed. During the time we stayed there a large number of badly wounded people were brought in.

Saturday, June 5, 1982

The team went back to Ain El-Helweh to prepare for emergency. In Sidon and Ain El-Helweh life was still normal. We went directly to the Hetteen center. At 11 a. m. the bombing started. Israeli aircraft raided mainly the areas around the camp. The raids stopped in the evening. The whole night aircraft were flying over the camp, but they did not bomb.

Sunday, June 6, 1982

At 5.30 a.m. we were woken by the first bomb attack. Still it was the areas around the camp that

were being bombed the most, but steadily the Israelis were coming closer and closer. A few bombs hit the camp. Some of the Israeli gunboats, which were stationed along the coast, were also involved in the bombing.

In the evening the bombing stopped and we thought it safest to evacuate from the Hetteen center. We went to the El Hamshari hospital. This hospital was still under construction. It was to be used as the PRCS's central hospital for Southern Lebanon later this year. But when we came, it was already in full use. We all started to work there; we had 20 patients in our care.

Monday, June 7, 1982

At night they started to bomb Ain El-Helweh proper. The bombing went on day and night, almost without break. Somebody told us that the Israelis were just outside the camp. We were staying in El Hamshari, which is one and a half kilometers from the camp, the whole time.

Tuesday, June 8, 1982

The bombings continued the same way as yesterday. The raids came from sea and air and from artillery on land. During the day we moved all the patients to shelters in the cellar. Four badly wounded women were brought in from Sidon. Besides the wounds, they had burns, probably from phosphorus bombs.

Wednesday, June 9, 1982

At 4 p.m. the Israelis dropped leaflets, in which it was said that the whole area would be bombed

two hours later. All civilians were to leave the area. But the bombing started and continued almost without break even during those two hours which were given for the evacuation.

Steinar, a Palestinian doctor, a Belgian doctor and a Lebanese civilian raised white flags and went to the Israeli commander to ask if it was possible that the hospital should be spared during the bombing raids. The commander said he did not know the location of the hospital. He did not have a good map of the area he was going to bomb. He was informed where the hospital was situated and he promised to try not to hit it directly, but he could not give any guarantees.

There was an urgent need for doctors in the Government Hospital nearby. Steinar and other volunteers went there in the evening.

"In the Government Hospital I was working together with a Canadian doctor," Steinar tells. "We were working on the stairs to the third floor. The hospital was full of seriously wounded patients and we worked continuously the whole night, while the Israelis were bombing all around us. At 7 o'clock in the morning the first floor was hit. Panic began. The patients desperately tried to escape from the first floor and ran up the stairs to the second floor. How many died there that night, I have no idea."

Thursday, June 10, 1982

Both El Hamshari and the Government Hospital were evacuated. Our whole team gathered in the Sidon hospital (PRCS central hospital for Southern Lebanon). The hospital had been evacuated while the battle of Sidon was going on. When the

fighting was over, Sidon was an occupied city and we prepared the hospital for normal work.

“During the evacuation from El Hamshari we saw the Israelis for the first time,” Liv Berit says. “It was one of our worst experiences. We were coming with those patients who were able to walk by themselves and were carrying others. Israeli tanks were lined up on the road to Sidon. Israeli soldiers were sitting on the tanks smoking cigars. It was a terrible thing to see those soldiers sitting on their tanks, and looking at us coldly as we passed with our patients.”

The hospital was partly destroyed by shelling. The generator in the cellar which supplied the hospital with electricity was damaged. Some Israelis came and looked at it. They promised to repair it but they never came back. The water supply in the town was also cut off. During the first few days we had almost no water.

During the day we received 60 or 70 patients. They were all seriously wounded. About 20 of them were in need of urgent surgery. Fifteen patients were children. Most of the cases were fractures, injured arms and legs which had to be amputated, deep burns, bullet injuries, and so on.

All we could do at the beginning was give the patients injections of antibiotics and analgesics to keep infections under control and ease the pain while the patients were waiting to be operated.

Ain El-Helweh was continuously bombed during the day.

“Together with a Palestinian doctor I visited one of the beaches where civilians were kept,” Liv Berit says. “We took some medicines with us to give it to the people there. When we came to the beach we were almost overrun by people: ‘We have no medicines, our children are sick, they have dia-

rhoa and we are also sick and have fever,' they said. We gave them the medicines we had brought with us. Many of those we saw were seriously wounded. We were allowed to take some of them to the hospital. The beach was barricaded and guarded by Israeli soldiers who did not let the people get out."

Friday, June 11, 1982

A Belgian doctor managed to reach the Government Hospital and evacuate the rest of the patients.

In the afternoon a large number of Israeli soldiers came to the hospital. They ordered all personnel, about 70 people, to come outside, and stand in front of the hospital. We stood there for three hours while the Israelis were searching the hospital. No treatment was given to any of the patients all that time. The only thing the Israelis allowed us to do was to let a doctor go inside the hospital and help a woman who was in labour.

When the search was over the Israelis arrested almost all of our male staff. Those who were left included one Palestinian and one Lebanese doctor, a Canadian surgeon, three nurses and some other women working in the hospital, and ten members of the two foreign teams that had worked in Mie Mie and Ain El-Helweh.

Later some of us went to the Israeli military governor, Col. Arnon Mozer, to ask him to let us have our staff back. This man had visited the hospital and knew the difficult situation the patients were in perfectly well.

We were told to come at 10 o'clock next day. In the meantime we could do nothing but powder our patients' wounds with antibiotics.

Saturday, June 12, 1982

Some of our staff members went to see Col. Mozer but he did not receive them. They were told to come at 10 o'clock on Sunday.

Sunday, June 13, 1982

Those of the male staff who were left in the hospital went to see Col. Mozer at the appointed time to discuss the situation in the hospital. Instead they were all arrested, Steinar and Oyvind among them. They were taken to a temporary prison, set up in a school yard in Sidon.

There was no doctor in the hospital from 10.00 a.m. till 18.00 p.m. when Dr. Francis Capet returned.

The same evening we received a message that a Scandinavian surgical team would come the next day. But we never saw them.

Monday, June 14, 1982

Some of us went to Col. Mozer in order to discuss the question of our personnel and get information about those arrested.

We were told that the hospital had been closed the day before, and all the patients should have been evacuated. When Col. Mozer learned that this was not so he ordered the hospital to be closed immediately and the patients moved to private hospitals. These hospitals were functioning somehow and getting supplies from the Israelis.

As for ourselves, we were even not allowed to go to the El Hamshari hospital where the PRCS had a big store of medicines, hospital material, etc., in order to supply our hospital in Sidon.

The Palestinian personnel who were still working in the Sidon hospital decided to leave because of the order from Col. Mozer. They believed they would also be arrested if they stayed longer. We also decided to leave since we were not allowed to work normally.

Then the evacuation of the patients began. The Lebanese Red Cross, which was responsible for the evacuation, tried to move the hardest cases to other hospitals. Some of them were refused admittance. Their condition was so bad that nothing could be done for them and they were brought back to us.

Tuesday, June 15, 1982

The evacuation of the patients continued. About ten of them were taken out that day.

We had a visit from journalists. We told them about our desperate situation and tried to send messages home through them, informing our people that we were still alive and wanted to get out.

The same evening Steinar and Oyvind were taken from the school yard to a concentration camp south of Sidon.

Wednesday, June 16, 1982

Some PRCS workers, among them two ambulance drivers, came back from the prison. They told us about the cruel treatment of the prisoners. They had marks of beatings on their backs.

People who had come from Ain El-Helweh told us that the camp was completely destroyed. "There is nothing left, just ruins and dead bodies, a lot of dead bodies are lying all over the place," said a Palestinian girl who had worked with us in the

Hetteen center. "Israeli military vehicles are parked around the camp, but are not coming inside," she added. That day Steinar and Oyvind were transferred to the Magido in Israel.

Thursday, June 17, 1982

Three of us went to the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) headquarters to discuss what was to be done about the patients who were coming to the hospital because they could not afford the cost of a private hospital. We did not have enough medicines, bandages and much else to help them. Besides, the Israelis were not allowing us to help them.

We met Madame Jumblatt, the head of the LRC. At first she was not willing to let us in, and tried to avoid talking to us. When the Israeli military doctor who was in the office at the time left, she let us in and said: "We received orders not to cooperate with the 'terrorist' teams from Ain El-Helweh and Mie Mie. We regret it. We would like to work together with you, but the Israelis forbid us. You should better not try to come here again, because in that case even we will be ordered to stop working."

Madame Jumblatt added that the LRC was allowed to do only what the Israelis told it to do.

We had daily contacts with an International Red Cross representative. He told us the same story. The Israelis were making it difficult for them to do their work.

Charge d'Affaires Ola Doerum from the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut visited us for the first time in Sidon. He informed us of the results of negotiations between the Embassy in Beirut, the

Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Foreign Department in Oslo and the Israelis concerning our departure from Sidon and the release of Steinar and Oyvind.

Marianne tried to find out about Steinar, Oyvind and the other captives from Col. Arnon Mozer several times, but the only answer she got was: "Oyvind is our guest for a few days and the others are none of your business".

In the afternoon a group of Israeli soldiers came to the hospital looking for the body of a pilot who had been shot down. They had with them a PRCS ambulance driver. He was tied up and had convict's clothes on and was closely guarded by the soldiers.

"It was obvious that he had been tortured," said Liv Berit. "He was limping and walked with his back bent. I had known this man before. He asked me to tell the Israelis I knew him and that he was just an ambulance driver. I did so. And I tried to find out what happened to him after he had been arrested. The answer I got was that it was none of my business. They took him away and left."

Friday, June 18, 1982

The evacuation of the patients was finished. Two doctors from Bangladesh returned from imprisonment together with an Iraqi dentist. An Israeli soldier told Marianne that Oyvind was in Israel and that he had himself dealt with him. "He is treated very well," he said. In the afternoon Pascale, the French nurse, and a Palestinian girl went out to buy something to drink. The girl came back without Pascale. After a while another girl, who was working with us, came and told us that she had seen Pascale in a bus together with other captives. So she had also been arrested.

Saturday, June 19, 1982

We were awokened by Israeli soldiers breaking the door. They left after a while, but came back again later. They put up a piece of paper on the entrance door which said that the hospital was closed and only the foreign team was allowed to enter.

From that moment the hospital became our prison. We were not allowed to leave without permission from the Israelis, and if granted it, we could not go out more than two at a time. We were given 30 minutes to buy food, etc. We could not sit on the veranda, but had to stay inside with the doors closed.

At noon we were allowed to go to Ain El-Helweh to pick up our belongings.

Except for a few houses at the entrance to the camp, the place was completely destroyed. There were some walls here and there. There were no houses, no roads, only ruins and a terrible stench of dead bodies.

The Hetteen center was one of the few buildings which had not been destroyed completely.

Josephine had an opportunity to go to her embassy in Tel Aviv, and she left Sidon.

Sunday, June 20, 1982

Early in the morning the loudspeakers announced that all men in town should go to the beach for a new check. The two doctors from Bangladesh went there even though they had stamps on their papers to prove that they had been released earlier. They were arrested for the second time. One of them was released again and came back to the hospital. The

same evening Steinar and Oyvind were handed over to the Norwegian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Monday, June 21, 1982

Charge d'Affaires Ola Doerum came to Sidon and finally got permission to leave for those of us who were still in the hospital. We were taken to Israel, to the Norwegian and Finnish embassies in Tel Aviv.

REPORT BY A GROUP OF GREEK DOCTORS AND NURSES

No words can express the feelings of the Greek doctors and nurses who witnessed the recent Zionist brutalities in Lebanon.

The Greek medical team feels the need and obligation to denounce before Greek and world public opinion the crimes, brutalities and barbarism perpetrated by the Israeli army in Southern Lebanon and besieged West Beirut. This report is an attempt to present briefly the distressing and painful experience lived through by the Greek medical mission. It has not been easy to compile this report because of the complexity of the events described. It is only a small contribution to the cause of the suffering Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, an expression of support for and solidarity with the heroic struggle of the two nations. It is high time that Greek and world public opinion should be objectively informed about the danger created by the actions of a UN member state, which flouts international law, refuses to respect human rights, even the right to life, and denies an entire people the right to have a homeland.

Today more than ever before humanity must realize the dimensions and catastrophic consequences of the continuation of the aggressive, expan-

sionist, militarist policies of the state of Israel; it must realize the danger of continued support for these policies on the part of the imperialist forces.

The events we witnessed clearly demonstrated the enormity of the threat to the very future of humanity.

Our 25-day stay in West Beirut was enough for us to grasp the dimensions of the criminal plans of Zionism which can hardly be included even in the term "genocide". The means used for the organized annihilation of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the manner in which it was being carried out confirmed the existence of plans designed to ensure Israel's success in its infamous undertaking.

The blockade of West Beirut from land, air and sea was one of the most disgraceful events in human history.

Without any respect for elementary human rights and completely disregarding the needs of at least 400,000 residents of West Beirut, the Israelis and Phalangists cut off the water, electricity and food supplies and made telephone communications extremely difficult. They denied permission to enter or leave West Beirut to all Palestinians, even physicians who had come there to fulfill their humanitarian duties.

Foreign doctors and medical personnel had terrible difficulty entering and leaving the blockaded part of the city.

We ourselves were subjected to humiliating formalities incompatible with international law and human rights. Our personal security was threatened and we had to go through interrogations concerning our destination, the character of our mission, the place of our residence and the nature of our work during our stay in blockaded West Beirut.

And all that despite the fact that we had our certificates of the Greek and International Red Cross, and in many instances our colleagues were accompanied by members of the Greek diplomatic mission in Lebanon. Our personal belongings were inspected despite the fact that it was obvious we were carrying medical supplies and personal things only. The worst was the humiliating body search carried out by the Israelis and Phalangists.

The sending of vital medical supplies for the wounded and sick fighters and civilians was being systematically prevented by the Israeli occupation forces. The supply of medicines, blood and other materials to the Palestinian and Lebanese Red Cross was prohibited in defiance of the elementary norms of international law.

Nearly the same difficulties were experienced by the International Red Cross, which could not use all its possibilities and could not carry out its duties properly.

During our stay in West Beirut the city was almost continuously subjected to merciless bombing and shelling from land, sea and air. Even the "cease-fire" agreements were systematically and purposely violated by the Israeli troops for psychological and military reasons.

We were shocked to learn that the Israelis did not confine their bombings to military targets but attacked with special vehemence the densely populated areas.

City districts such as Sabra, Shatila, Fakhani, Borj El Barajnie, Chouaifate and Mazraa have been completely destroyed. It should be noted that these areas had been bombed continuously. Their population had to choose between leaving their homes and dying. But they were unable to leave and the

number of dead and wounded in that terrible war grew every day.

The refugee camps with women and children, which were set up following the Israeli destruction of Southern Lebanon, and the populated areas of West Beirut were the favourite targets of the Israeli air force and artillery.

The conditions for the care of the wounded were terrible, since hospitals were bombed deliberately and repeatedly. The Akka, Gaza and Barbir hospitals suffered considerable damage, even though they displayed flags and signs of the International Red Cross.

A great number of the patients were victims of repeated bombings. We express our indignation over the criminal bombing of the Psychiatric Hospital resulting in the death of 27 undefended patients. The bombings had made the functioning of the above hospitals extremely difficult, because they could not give much security to their patients.

The lack of vital services, including electricity and water, and a shortage of food made even first aid to the wounded a problem.

Not all the wounded were always admitted, since the nursing teams, organized in a hurry, were too inadequate to cope with all the work involved.

The very nature of the wounds made diagnosis difficult and uncertain. We found that all patients were suffering from multiple wounds with extensive surgical and orthopaedic implications.

There were very few cases of bullet wounds because most patients were victims of bombings. The nature of the injuries, which were the most severe ever dealt with during a war in world medical experience, showed the systematic use by the Israeli army of internationally banned weapons.

We can report cases of people wounded by phosphorus bombs who had extensive, deep burns, with areas of wholly destroyed soft tissue and damaged bones. We repeatedly operated on patients pierced through with numerous bomb fragments and had to amputate arms and legs of small children. Very often the damage to soft tissue and bones was so great even in areas far from the primary lesion that we had to amputate whole limbs.

Even in cases where we could probably avoid amputation, the great loss of tissue made any attempt at surgical restoration in the future seem doubtful. All this enables us to state that the number of people left invalids will be very high.

We would like to express our indignation, revulsion and shock at the Israelis' use of toy-bombs, a fact which made it necessary for us on numerous occasions to amputate arms and legs of young children aged from four to ten.

We must also add the systematic use of fire-bombs in arid regions, which we saw with our own eyes. We had further proof of this when we had to treat patients with severe burns. We also had patients suffering after being hit by Israeli tanks while lying wounded on the ground.

Another fact which must not be ignored is the criminal psychological warfare against West Beirut residents, involving Israeli planes flying with deafening noise and dropping leaflets, and staging mock attacks and air raids accompanied by the firing of flares.

We must also mention the systematic use of car-bombs which was also a significant element of psychological warfare. The atmosphere of terror was further aggravated by the presence of snipers at many cross points in the city.

We condemn the Israeli government and army for their criminal plans to exterminate the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

We demand that all responsible international organizations and world public take concrete measures to denounce the brutalities taking place in Lebanon and remove the threat to the very future of mankind.

We also demand that the Greek government and Greek public take practical measures to this end.

We finally demand, in case of Israel's non-compliance, the international isolation of this country and the application of strong censuring measures against it by international organizations.

L. Floros, surgeon, Vice President of the Panhellenic Medical Association

Ath. Papageorgiou, orthopaedic surgeon, member of the Union of Hospital Doctors

L. Vasilakou, nurse, member of the Greek General Confederation of Workers

C. Alexiou, surgeon

V. Karanika, nurse, member of the Greek Federation of Hospital Personnel

M. Pouli, nurse

Al. Beris, orthopaedic surgeon

St. Skoufoglou, nurse

G. Pappa, nurse

C. Papapashali, nurse, member of the Greek Federation of Hospital Personnel

G. Kokkalis, plastic surgeon

Ch. Charalambous, surgeon

Ath. Nisiotis, surgeon

C. Kanellis, orthopaedic surgeon

G. Kanelli, anesthesiologist

Z. Volikas, neurosurgeon

TESTIMONY OF MISS PIRKKO PARVIAINEN, PHYSIOTHERAPIST (Finland)

I went to Lebanon through the Finnish-Arab Friendship Society on April 21 and intended to stay there for half a year. We had a Scandinavian project in Ain El-Helweh refugee camp in Sidon. This project consisted of a clinic with a Norwegian doctor and nurse, and of a rehabilitation center for mentally and physically handicapped children and grownups. In the center we were one social worker from Holland, two social workers and one nurse from Norway and myself as a physiotherapist. We worked with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS).

On Friday, June 4, we were all in Beirut when the Israelis began to bomb the capital. The bombardment lasted about one and a half hours. On Saturday morning we decided to go back to Sidon and some hours after our arrival, the Israelis began to bomb Sidon. The bombardment continued on Sunday.

During these two days we stayed at the center despite the rather heavy bombardment, because our center was intended to function as a hospital during emergencies and we expected to receive patients. We didn't get any until Sunday evening. After some discussion, we decided to leave the center

on Sunday evening, because we felt very unsafe without a shelter and because the Israelis had already bombed the camp. Later on we heard that the Israelis had also shelled Ain El-Helweh all night from the sea.

We went to the El Hamshari hospital situated quite near the camp. There conditions were better because we could work together with the team from the Mie Mie camp; the team included a doctor, a nurse and a midwife. The hospital had a big shelter in the basement where we could take our patients to in case of need.

On Sunday evening we got some patients evacuated from another nearby hospital and some new ones who had been wounded during the bombardment and shelling. We also admitted some patients with burns, most probably from phosphorus bombs.

On Tuesday we transferred the patients, about twenty of them, to the shelter, because the bombardment and shelling had become very intense. We stayed in the shelter until Thursday morning taking care of our patients, giving them food and medicines. We slept on blankets on sandy ground. We had only candle light and ate some canned food. The shelter was rather a big one with rooms of different sizes. We stayed in one of the rooms. There must have been hundreds of people in the shelter.

On Wednesday some of the doctors had a meeting with the Israelis. They asked the Israeli officer not to bomb the hospital. He promised to try not to bomb it directly, but said he could not guarantee anything. On Wednesday the whole of Sidon was occupied by the Israelis, except the camp. This day we made some flags with the Red Cross sign and put them on the roof of the building.

On Thursday morning the Israelis told us to

leave the building and the area, because they were going to bomb the region a few hours later. So we left together with the patients and hundreds of other people fleeing from the bombing. We put the patients who couldn't walk into cars and the rest of us began to walk towards the center of Sidon. On the way we met people from the Lebanese Government Hospital and they said that the Israelis had hit the Hospital in the morning. There were planes flying over us all the time and everybody was really afraid. Tens of Israeli tanks lined along the streets and hundreds of soldiers were staring at the people who were almost running. Sidon seemed to be totally destroyed.

The Israelis separated Europeans from Palestinians and other nationals. They arrested some of our patients, and we don't know what happened to them. Soldiers asked us if we wanted to leave the country. We refused. We wanted to continue our work at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society hospital. We got the permission and so we began from the very beginning: washed the floors, cleared away the broken glass and prepared the beds. We learned that there was no running water or electricity in the hospital. The Israelis had occupied the private hospital on the opposite side of the street and turned it into a hotel for themselves. There they had water and electricity all the time.

Very soon we had about 60 patients, Lebanese and Palestinians, 15 children, women and men—some of them were badly wounded and needed immediate operations. Without electricity it was very difficult, but still the doctors operated on some cases.

On Friday, June 11, Israelis armed with guns came and forced all the hospital staff to sit down in the street in front of the hospital for three

hours. They didn't even allow us to go to the patients during these hours. They picked the Palestinian men one by one and arrested them. They also arrested doctors from Iraq and Bangladesh.

Working in the hospital was difficult. Most of the doctors were arrested. There was no water and electricity. We asked the Israelis to restore the supply, but they didn't. We couldn't change the dressings every day. The wounds became infected and the smell was terrible everywhere. The Israelis told us that a Norwegian medical team would come to continue our work in the hospital, but the team never came.

On Sunday, June 13, a group of six men, five foreigners and one Palestinian, went to meet the Israeli military governor. Only one of them, a Belgian doctor, came back in the evening; the others were arrested.

Finally the Palestinian women left the hospital because they were too afraid to stay there. The Israelis considered the hospital as Fatah hospital and refused to recognize that the Palestinian Red Crescent Society was an observer-member of the International Red Cross.

We asked for help from the Lebanese Red Cross, but they had received a message from the Israelis that they should not cooperate with us. Later they evacuated our patients to some other hospitals. On June 19 our hospital was empty and only the foreigners stayed there. The hospital was in a terrible condition. Some of the people who had been arrested earlier came back after five or six days. They told us the following:

They had been taken to a school in Sidon which was turned into a prison. There were hundreds of prisoners sitting in the school yard in the sun, blindfolded and with their hands tied behind their

backs. For the first two or three days they did not get any water or bread. Soldiers beat them. Some of them were more vicious than others. If the prisoners asked for water or food they were savagely beaten and kicked. At night they slept in this overcrowded yard, still tied. It was impossible for them to move or sleep. They were surrounded by tanks the lights of which were flooding the whole courtyard. Soldiers tormented the captives by threatening to drive the tanks on them. The tanks were even started at one point and guns were fired around the prisoners who were blindfolded.

The soldiers did not even bother to question them before torturing them. They also took money from some prisoners. Each of the prisoners had either a big cross or a number written on his shirt. After having been released they received a pass allowing them to move freely in Sidon. But these passes were of no value because the people carrying them were arrested again. Everybody had a feeling that the Israelis could do whatever they wanted. They didn't care for international conventions. All they wanted was to kill the Palestinians—terrorists as they called them.

Most of the Palestinians were gathered on the beach guarded by Israeli soldiers, but some had managed to escape to the mountains. I don't know exactly where they got food.

One day I was standing in a queue for water. There were mostly old women and children. On top of the water tank there were two Israeli soldiers standing with their machine guns pointed at us.

Suddenly one of them fired his gun in the air just to frighten those who were queuing for water. A third Israeli soldier was walking up and down the line with a plastic stick in his hand. He was

shouting at the children to keep quiet, although there was no danger of any disorder.

We visited the camp afterwards and it was terrible to see it totally destroyed. All the houses were bombed down, the streets had numerous bomb craters and there was a smell of burnt flesh all over. There must have been hundreds, maybe thousands of people killed in this camp and most of the inhabitants had lost their homes.

The Israelis bombed hospitals and arrested hospital staff. This means that they didn't want the wounded to get help.

AMERICAN DELEGATION REPORTS FINDINGS ON ISRAELI USE OF US WEAPONS IN LEBANON

A five-member American delegation from Washington D. C. left West Beirut following 15 days of intensive investigation into Israeli use of US weapons against the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian population.

The delegation, en route to Washington D. C. with its findings, disclosed today some of its conclusions which will be reported to the US Congress and the American public.

The delegation, comprised of present and past Congressional staff members, includes Brenda Pillars (who will report to member of Congress Shirley Chisholm, N.Y.), Ted Holliday (to report to Congressman Walter Fauntroy, D. C.), Karen Ayasi (who will report to the Democratic Campaign Committee), Susan Hedges (who will report to Senator James McClure), and Franklin Lamb who is preparing a report to be presented to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The delegation left two investigators in West Beirut to study further the so-called vacuum bomb and experimental weapons.

Among the findings of the delegation:

Extensive recent and indiscriminate use of US cluster bombs and US phosphorus bombs, both of

which the delegation claims violates the bilateral US-Israeli arms agreement, as well as the US Arms Export Control Act which permits the use of these weapons in the event of an invasion of Israel.

The delegation's report to Congress, according to Dr. Franklin Lamb, will offer clear and convincing evidence of Israeli use of these banned weapons as recently as August 4, 1982, against the civilian population of West Beirut.

The delegation will provide the US Congress with more than 100 sworn affidavits from doctors in 19 hospitals and clinics in West Beirut, stating that on a particular date the doctor concerned treated a specific cluster bomb or phosphorus wound sustained in a specific geographical location. The delegation concluded that Israel used US cluster and phosphorus bombs in a minimum of 14 locations in West Beirut since the July 1982 pledge by Israel to the US government to cease and desist in the use of these weapons.

The delegation will also present to the US Congress human tissue and flesh samples which it claims show recent phosphorus burns. Chemical tests were conducted at the American University hospital in West Beirut and further analysis will be conducted in the United States.

The delegation will further provide the US Congress with examples of three kinds of US cluster bomb projectiles gathered around Beirut, as well as lists of US military serial numbers taken from cluster bombs canisters. We want a full explanation to the American people and Congress from the Pentagon about these numbers and exact information concerning their design, shipment and effects. Affidavits showing when and where these weapons were used will also be supplied to Con-

gress, as well as other evidence which the delegation declines to disclose at this time.

According to the American delegation, if Congress finds that Israel's use of these weapons constitutes a substantial violation of the US Arms Export Control Act, all arms shipments by the US to Israel must cease.

President Reagan has already suspended further shipments to Israel of US cluster bombs which, according to the delegation's findings, are being used in a systematic way against the civilian population of West Beirut and has turned Lebanon into a virtual slaughterhouse.

SPEECH BY EVANGELOS MAHERAS, PRESIDENT OF THE ATHENS BAR ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Greek lawyers I wish to express our anger and indignation over the crimes of the Zionists against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

It is the first time since the end of the Second World War, that such horrible crimes have been committed, recalling in our memory the black days of the nazists' criminal actions against all the peoples of Europe, but especially against those who now copy their methods and their terrible mistakes.

Unfortunately, those who govern Israel have not been taught anything by the martyrdom of their people, and they attempt to destroy the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples with fire and iron and cruel bombardments, without making any distinction between the military and those unable to defend themselves: old men, women, children, the ill and the wounded.

The argument that the aim of Israel's invasion in Lebanon was the removal of the PLO from its boundaries has no relation to the blockade of the Lebanese towns, the genocide of Palestinians, the bombardments of hospitals and schools—all

being committed in violation of international law and human rights.

If before the invasion some people believed the arguments of the Israeli government, now they have seen the truth. And this truth is that a horrible crime is being committed not just against the Palestinians but against all humanity.

Doctors, journalists, judges and politicians have described the extent and the horror of these crimes. But there is one problem which arouses the Greek lawyers' special concern and which calls for urgent action.

It is the problem of the Palestinian fighters who have been captured by Israeli troops and who do not have the POW status. The Israeli authorities treat them as common criminals to be tried by military courts.

Now we all know who the criminals are. We also know that one fighting for liberty, for his country, is not a criminal.

According to the Geneva Convention of 1949, not only members of the armed forces of a party to the conflict are to be regarded as prisoners of war, but also members of resistance movements belonging to a party to the conflict and operating in or outside their own territory, even if this territory is occupied, provided that:

they are commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates;

they are carrying arms openly;

they conduct their operations in accordance with the laws and customs of war.

Under the same Convention the category of prisoners of war also includes inhabitants of a non-occupied territory who spontaneously take up arms to resist the invading forces, without having had time to form themselves into regular armed units.

According to the same Convention, included in this category are also members of regular armed forces who profess allegiance to a government or authority not recognized by the detaining power.

The Palestinian fighters arrested by Israeli troops are without any doubt prisoners of war, because they are members of the armed forces of the Palestinian authorities, or at least because they are members of the organized resistance groups of one of the belligerent parties.

Israel is obliged to recognize all captured Palestinian fighters as prisoners of war and to respect the rules of the above International Convention and of internationally accepted laws of warfare.

This means that:

1. These prisoners are under the responsibility of the Israeli State and not of the soldiers or officers who capture them.

2. Any violation of the person is prohibited.

3. They may keep all their personal belongings.

4. The competent authorities should be responsible for providing them with food, clothing and medical assistance.

5. The same authorities are obliged to inform international organizations about the number of the prisoners and give their names.

6. After an armistice or peace agreement they are obliged to release them.

I am afraid that the Israeli authorities will not respect their obligations. Nobody knows who the prisoners are, how many are imprisoned, their names, their situation or their future.

We have no right to remain complacent, indifferent and inactive.

We must protest against the violations of international law, to condemn the crimes against the

prisoners and move Heaven and Earth for the salvation of these suffering human beings.

The Athens Bar Association has established a committee for the defense of the prisoners and victims of violence.

We are ready to help the Palestinian prisoners and other victims of Zionists. But this will be difficult and I think that an international committee is needed in order to achieve success.

I am waiting for your proposals. In the meantime I declare once more that we will do our best for the salvation of the Palestinian prisoners. And we hope that very soon they will join their parents, brothers and children in a liberated fatherland.

REPORT BY TAYSIR QUBA, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE PLO

Today, as the war rages in Lebanon, it is time to take stock of what Zionism and its state really are. For seventy days the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples have been facing an unprecedented onslaught by the Israeli army, air force and warships—with the most sophisticated US weapons. Over one-third of Lebanon is occupied. The Israeli invasion has thus far meant 30,000 dead and wounded—the greater part of them civilians. More than 10,000 children have been affected—maimed, left homeless or made orphans. There are close to one million new refugees, Palestinian and Lebanese. For many, this is the second time they are rendered homeless, for some, the third or even fourth time. Two major towns of Southern Lebanon have been destroyed in addition to numerous villages. After the major battles subsided in Southern Lebanon, what was left of the Palestinian refugee camps was bulldozed by the Israelis. The Israeli aim has far exceeded the originally stated aim of creating a security zone. It is now obvious that this was but a smokescreen for a genocidal campaign aimed at radically altering the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East as a whole.

The genocidal pattern implemented in Southern

Lebanon is now being applied in Beirut. Begin himself has stated that his army is willing to kill 20 civilians for every fighter. How else can one explain the events of August 12th, when West Beirut was subjected to 10 hours of continuous bombardment by the Zionist forces from land, sea and air. West Beirut is not an empty battle-ground—over half a million of its citizens have remained there. On that day alone close to 44,000 bombs and rockets rained down on the city, 500 people were killed or injured. Rescuing the injured was rendered close to impossible by the continuation of the attack. Treating the injured has become more and more difficult owing to the lack of electricity, water and fuel which is due to the Israeli-imposed blockade of the city. Moreover, every major hospital has been directly hit, and some severely damaged, further underlining Zionism's genocidal aims. The attack also resulted in the destruction of 600 homes as well as the Palestinian camps in the southern periphery of the city. One thousand more homes were rendered unfit for living.

Local and international organizations have spared no effort to save the Lebanese capital and its inhabitants. But a close look at what has happened reveals beyond a shadow of doubt that the Zionist state is intent on destroying as much as possible in the western part of the city, in order not only to liquidate the PLO, but also to create a new political reality in Lebanon. There are many signs, including statements by the Zionist leadership itself, that Israel is not planning a quick pullout from Lebanon. Its aim is the creation of a fascist state, headed by the Phalangist war chief, Bechar Gemayel, which will check the progressive mass movement in the country, repress the masses and

sign a peace treaty with Israel. This is part of the imperialist and Zionist plan to impose the Camp David agreement on the area.

Another thing that stands out clearly about the war in Lebanon is that the Israeli invasion could never have begun, much less continued until now, were it not for the massive political and military support of US imperialism. The military support is all too obvious to our people suffering in Lebanon. In addition to the damage caused by US-supplied warplanes and tanks, our people are suffering from the effects of internationally banned weapons—cluster, fragmentation, phosphorus and napalm bombs. Poisonous gas has also been used. While the Reagan Administration makes a play of discussing whether Israel is using these deadly weapons defensively or offensively, that is, against civilians or against military targets, more and more people are falling victims to these weapons for all the world to see. The hospitals in Lebanon are full of them, and most are civilians. Many children have been killed, because they picked up something that looked like a lighter or toy lying in the street after an Israeli attack. These booby-trapped objects were dropped in camps and residential areas, and most often they exploded in the hands of a child.

What further proof is needed that the Zionist state is determined to wipe out thousands of people to achieve its goals of expansion and control? And what further proof is needed of the full support it enjoys from the US?

US imperialism and Israeli Zionism are intent on expanding the framework of the Camp David deal. When brutal Zionist repression failed in the spring of 1982 to halt the resistance of Palestinian people living under occupation, Israeli Zionists

and US imperialists decided to destroy the Palestinian Revolution, its ally, the Lebanese Patriotic Movement, and Syria by means of genocide.

A third fact highlighted by the current war in Lebanon is the position of the majority of the Arab regimes. Here we are speaking of those reactionary regimes whose interests are tied to imperialism and who repress the Arab masses. Actually we are not surprised that these regimes' "support" for the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, victims of this brutal attack, has been limited to verbal appeals. These regimes in fact believe that their position will be improved if Israel defeats the Palestinian Revolution, the Lebanese National Movement and Syria. This would remove the main obstacle to their consolidating their alliance with US imperialism and finding a modus vivendi with the Zionist state. It will be noted that Egypt has already been welcomed back into official Arab circles, Egypt whose separate treaty with the Zionist state opened the way for the Zionist and imperialist strategy of splitting the Arab ranks in order better to fight the anti-imperialist forces and the popular masses.

Despite the brutal Zionist attack and the lack of support from the Arab regimes, the forces of the Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese patriots continue to resist the invaders both behind the lines and in the trenches of Beirut. They have made this the longest war ever waged against the Zionist aggressor, because they know the nature of this enemy. They know that its expansion and aggression can only be stopped by continuous popular warfare.

While pursuing its armed struggle, the PLO has declared its readiness to approve a reasonable political solution which will put an end to the

bloodshed in Lebanon. The problem in Lebanon is not the presence of the Palestinians and the PLO—this is regulated by agreements with the Lebanese government. We have declared our readiness to negotiate the conditions of our presence, but the main obstacle to negotiations have been the repeated Israeli attacks. These attacks highlight the real problem in Lebanon today: the occupation of the country by the Israeli army. We demand the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli invaders.

We feel that what is now happening in Lebanon is not only our concern or that of the Lebanese people. All the forces of the world concerned with the cause of liberation and peace have something at stake here. Zionism which proposed to offer a haven for persecuted Jews has turned these very Jews into cannon fodder for its expansionist aims and for the sake of US imperialism's ambitions to control the Arab world and its resources.

To this end, the Begin government is carrying out a new massacre in Lebanon. But conscientious Jews in Israel and abroad have asked that their sons' blood not be shed for the sake of promoting such policies.

Israel is flagrantly violating all norms of international law. In the wake of its aggression, it has detained up to 15,000 Palestinians and Lebanese citizens. Many of these are being detained at the newly-built Zionist concentration camp of Ansar in Southern Lebanon, others are in Israel. The few who have been released tell about the ill-treatment and torture of prisoners. A number of foreign doctors have testified to having seen prisoners beaten to death after being made to stand in the sun for two days.

While waging a brutal war of aggression, the Zionists refuse to grant the status of prisoner of war to any Palestinian, and thus obstruct the efforts of international organizations to see to it that they are treated in accordance with the relevant Geneva Convention. The articles of this Convention dealing with protection of civilians in wartime, have been systematically violated by the Israelis who bomb residential areas and cut off electricity, water, fuel and food supplies to West Beirut. Today diseases are spreading as a result of dehydration, especially among children.

A few years ago, the United Nations condemned Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination. We feel that to prevent Israel forcing its will on Lebanon the progressive forces of the world should adopt a new and even more resolute stand and launch vigorous international actions. Despite the Zionist savagery, the PLO has not been destroyed, nor have its allies, the antifascist, anti-Zionist forces in Lebanon. While continuing to defend Lebanon and the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, we ask for your support of the continuing battle against Zionism and its imperialist patrons. There will be no peace in the Middle East as long as Zionism remains, for its war of expansion and the aims of its main supporter—US imperialism—undermine the interests of the peoples of the area who strive for peace, progress and democracy. In particular, Zionism undermines the Palestinians' just aspirations for self-determination and for a homeland in Palestine.

We deeply appreciate all the support we have received in the past from the progressive forces, especially the socialist community with the Soviet Union in the forefront. For the sake of putting an end to imperialist hegemony in our area propped

up by the Zionist war machine, we ask for further support so that we can fight our just war which will ensure lasting peace in our area and will bring liberation to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The withdrawal of Israel from Lebanon will be the first step to establishing a Palestinian state.

STATEMENT BY JOSEPH ALGAZY, SECRETARY OF THE ISRAELI LEAGUE FOR HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I would like on behalf of my colleagues in the Israeli League for Human and Civil Rights, on behalf of Prof. Israel Shahak who is here with us and myself personally, to thank the International Commission for inviting us to take part in and contribute to its work in order to establish the truth, or at least part of the truth, concerning the crimes committed by the Israeli invasion forces in their war in Lebanon against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The war and crimes have continued since June 4-5.

We will support our statements by cuttings from the Israeli press confirming a number of our accusations. By invading Lebanon the Israeli authorities have violated international law and crushed the sovereignty of a member state of the United Nations. They persist in annihilating the Palestinian national entity. The forces of this murderous and bloody invasion have infringed on all elementary human rights and resorted to violence, massacre and destruction. In our opinion and understanding, according to our moral standards, they have committed abominable crimes, war crimes, crimes against the human being, against humanity. It is our duty to document these crimes,

to make them known and to condemn them. But above all, we must stop this criminal, or at least try to stop him, or we will become his accomplices. Public opinion cannot hide behind the pretence of ignorance of the facts. Alas, we do not know everything, but we know much about the horrors committed, and we cannot afford to remain silent and indifferent.

If we talk of criminals, we should also talk of accomplices. This is the proper moment to mention the number one accomplice which is the United States. It is this country that provides arms to the criminal state, finances it and gives it political, diplomatic and moral support.

The criminals are the invasion forces and their leaders, primarily those that give orders from their air-conditioned offices: Menahem Begin, Ariel Sharon, Raphael Eitan and Itshak Shamir. I say it with full responsibility, as a humanist and an Israeli citizen, who like many other Israeli citizens, condemns the filthy war in Lebanon launched by the Begin government with complete support of the Reagan Administration.

Throughout the war the invasion forces have carried out massive bombardments directed to a large extent against civilian targets and civilian population, against schools, commercial centers, hospitals and places of worship. These massive bombardments were launched from the air, land and sea. Whole quarters were destroyed. Palestinian refugee camps were razed to the ground. All one can see along the Lebanese coast, from the Israeli border in the north down to Beirut, is destruction. The intense bombings rained death on the civilian population, on children, women and old people. I will now read an excerpt from what Amnon Kapeliuk, an Israeli journalist who visited the ruins

of the Ain El-Helweh refugee camp, wrote (what irony, "Ain El-Helweh" in Arabic means "the source of beauty"): "Words lose their meaning when one sees Ain El-Helweh, the huge Palestinian refugee camp east of Sidon. When you see the terrible destruction and meet the survivors everything pales against this reality... Out of the 40,000 people that inhabited the camp prior to the invasion of the Israeli army, only a few thousand have remained. The vast majority were scattered in all directions. The houses of one, two and three stories were destroyed, some of them partially and many completely. It looks like not a single building has been spared the bombardments of the Israeli Air Force or the shellings of the artillery. At present bulldozers have gone over what was left from the bombardments. It's virtually a symphony of destruction and annihilation. Among the debris women, children and old people were roaming like ghosts... A French woman reporter accompanying us said, 'Al-Asnam in Algeria the day after the terrible earthquake that took a toll of thousands of lives, was exactly like this'." (*Al-Hamishmar*, July 16, 1982).

The Israeli forces do not deny having used phosphorus and cluster bombs in Lebanon. Israeli doctors have related the horrible effects of these bombs. They burn and tear human flesh, leave horrible scars and cause psychological traumas. The list of towns and refugee camps bombed and ravaged is long, and it includes Sidon, Tyre, Ain El-Helweh, Damour and Rashidiya, and now, West Beirut.

The Israeli authorities justify the massive bombardments by saying that in this way they save the lives of the invading soldiers. And why are they even today razing Palestinian refugee camps?

In order to find solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees, they argue. Four decades ago someone else also wanted to find solution to another problem, the Jewish problem, and that had led us to the Holocaust. Those memories pursue us and make us draw comparisons. One Israeli officer who has not lost his humanity confessed in a newspaper, and I quote: "When I think about what we have done, I compare it to what was done to our people during World War II... apparently, the job of an occupation army in a populated area must go along the lines of what was done to us in Europe in the 1940s." (*Davar*, June 28, 1982).

Because of the massive bombardments that brought death to thousands of people, mostly civilians, and destroyed hundreds of buildings, there are millions of homeless and displaced persons in Lebanon today. These are the terms used by the International Red Cross. Whole families wander about without homes or lodgings. The displaced persons of today risk becoming the homeless of tomorrow. The invasion forces raze by bulldozers the devastated refugee camps. And who are these refugees? They are Palestinians driven from their homes for a second, or perhaps, third time during the life of one generation. How does the Begin government want to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem? The reply was given by an Israeli government minister, Yaakov Meridor. Lieutenant-Colonel Dov Yermia, who served in the Israeli military corps and who published his impressions in the press, recounted what Meridor had to say at a meeting of Israeli officers. I quote: "When asked about the policy towards the Palestinian refugees, he replied, accompanying his words with a symbolic gesture, 'They should be driven eastward, in the direction of Syria. Let them go there, but don't

let them come back.' " (*Hotam*, supplement to *Al-Hamishmar*, July 16, 1982).

Another very urgent problem is that of the "missing persons". One can imagine that the fate of a great number of them is death, buried under debris, or buried in mass graves. But there are also the missing, who were captured alive to be questioned and whose fate is today unknown. The journalist Kapeliuk quoted above wrote: "Not only the houses have been destroyed in Ain El-Helweh. There are almost no men or boys left either. 'Akhadu rjalna' ('Our men were taken away'), I was told by a pregnant woman. Without men there is no livelihood, and the women do not know where salvation will come from... No buildings, no men, no sources of livelihood, no public institutions. The very basis of life was destroyed in the Lebanese refugee camps, not the basis of the PLO, but of the life of the exiled Palestinian people." (*Al-Hamishmar*, July 16, 1982).

A long time will pass until we can obtain facts that will reveal the truth about the dead, the wounded, the homeless, the displaced, the missing and the imprisoned. The number and identity of the Palestinian prisoners and others who fell into the hands of the Israeli forces remains a mystery closely guarded by the authorities. We know that the representatives of the International Red Cross have not yet met all the prisoners. The Israeli procedure of trial and interrogation gives a free hand to the Israeli forces with regard to these prisoners.

Furthermore, the Israeli authorities refuse to grant the Palestinian prisoners the status of prisoners of war in accordance with international conventions. The Israeli authorities have promulgated a special emergency decree under which the Pa-

lestinian prisoners of war are to be treated as administrative detainees who can be brought before military courts.

The decree, among other things, empowers Israeli authorities to arrest people who are not Israeli citizens and inhabitants of Israel. I quote from one paragraph of this decree: "2.(a) During a state of special emergency, a commanding officer of the Israeli Defense Army of the rank of Major-General, at least, being reasonably motivated to assume that reasons of state security or public security necessitate the detention of a person who is not a citizen of Israel or an inhabitant of Israel, is empowered to issue an order signed by him whereby that person will be detained for the period stated in the order..." (Emergency Decrees, Detentions During a Special State of Emergency, June 8, 1982).

The occupation authorities are using to their own ends Haddad's mercenaries. They harass and terrorize the population. They assassinate their political adversaries, provoke incidents between the different communities in Lebanon and impose bandit rule.

I must stress that our mission is very difficult because one of the victims of this war is truth. Truth has been abused, falsified, violated, tortured and killed. We have to tear off the veil of lies spread by the criminals and their accomplices. The Israeli authorities, while still trying to justify their actions by the "needs of war", have used all possible means to hide the horrors committed by them. For a certain period they did not allow journalists to visit the areas of military actions. All journalists, except the Israeli military correspondents mobilized by the Israeli army and being under orders, were forced to leave those areas. Later, when they were

finally allowed to return, not all of them were given permission to do so. I, myself a journalist accredited by the Israeli government press office, have not as yet been given permission to visit the occupied territories in Lebanon. The journalists are "guided" by Israeli officers. Some regions are closed to journalists, in particular, the devastated refugee camps. Journalists are submitted to very rigorous censorship. They have had their films confiscated and certain passages in their reports erased. During the first week of August some offices of Lebanese newspapers and certain press agencies set up in West Beirut were bombed and destroyed. Journalists living in West Beirut were exposed to serious danger. The correspondent of the daily newspaper *Le Monde*, Eric Rouleau, has described the actions of Israeli authorities against the press in West Beirut as the assassination of the Press in Lebanon.

The Israeli authorities hide the truth and spread lies. This is part of their psychological warfare. Israeli soldiers who have opened the eyes of the Israeli public to the lies being spread by the Israeli authorities are numerous. A young Israeli soldier has said: "We could listen only to the Israeli radio and television news—and we didn't believe them." (*Davar*, June 28, 1982).

Finally there is the problem of West Beirut. For more than two months now the civilian population of this town has lived in what can be described as Dante's Inferno. Massive bombardments, collapsed buildings, human beings buried alive beneath the debris, fires, hospitals overcrowded with patients suffering agonies from burns, amputated limbs, thirst, hunger, shortage of fuel, medicines, electricity—all this has turned life into hell. Sharon wants the exodus of the remaining population

of West Beirut, otherwise he threatens to destroy the town. The population of West Beirut has been Sharon's hostage for two months. An Israeli soldier published the following anonymous letter in the daily *Haaretz* on August 10, which he entitled "A Dream About Beirut". I will read it to you:

"I would like to describe the dream of someone who returned from Beirut two days ago. Beirut, even in dreams, can be recognized by the smell it exudes. The stench of corpses even if you get used to it continues to pursue you everywhere. In Beirut the people of the Bible have fulfilled the vision of the Bible: 'And the mountains became valleys'."

The refugee camp of Ain El-Helweh and other camps have been flattened, wiped off the face of the earth. The Israeli army takes care to clear away the debris according to the best Israeli tradition. Children of three to five years old carry, as best as they can, heavy sacks with the rubble of the houses which were once their homes. For this work the army pays them with tinned food. Convoys and lines of refugees are streaming out of the city. Sometimes they are stopped by gangs of men who fire into the air just for the pleasure of scaring them, gangs of Phalangists whom the Israeli radio calls "our allies". As in the Warsaw ghetto, small children secretly bring food and fuel into the besieged town, and Israeli soldiers, who have long been laughing at the word "defense" in the name the "Israeli Defense Army", let them pass.

This war in Lebanon is for us a nightmare, which will pursue us for many years to come, until the time justice is done. Our only consolation is that numerous Israelis have demonstrated that they are against this war. These Israelis come from all

sections of the population, and they include women, men and soldiers.

I have not spoken of the various political aspects of this war, restricting myself to the problem of human rights, not because we have no political stand, but because we realize that the mission of the International Commission is limited only to establishing facts concerning the crimes committed by the Israeli invasion forces in Lebanon. We will work for a just peace based on respect for the peoples' right to self-determination.

STATEMENT BY HANS GÖRAN FRANCK, LAWYER (Sweden)

I speak here as a reporter and witness coming from Lebanon and Syria. I am not an expert on Middle East affairs. I have only made a few comments and statements on the Middle East before.

Before I started on this mission I tried to get as much information as I could. I got in touch with different officials. I met officials of the Lebanese government, of the Israeli authorities, of the PLO and of the Lebanese National Movement. I tried also to study many official documents of the present US Administration.

This was a very difficult mission. I had been before on many missions around the world—Vietnam, Latin America, Southern Africa and many other countries. I will not say that this was the most difficult of them, but it was very difficult. Why was it so difficult? It was because of the war in Lebanon and the measures used by those who have invaded this country. It was also so difficult because there are inside Lebanon other forces who really create all kinds of difficulties, particularly the Phalangists.

When we started on our trip to Lebanon and to West Beirut it was really hard for us to get in contact with people because the telephones were

not functioning and appointments could not be made beforehand. We were stopped everywhere during our travel, and of course, many people we talked to were afraid. So we had to make our plans from day to day, from hour to hour and from minute to minute. The difficulties were also enormous because we had to move around, particularly in West Beirut, in order to contact people, and there was always great danger, especially from cluster bombs. A cluster bomb is a big container which has small bombs that explode at a certain height or on touching the ground. Many of them had not exploded and one could step on one. It must be realized also that we could not have a car to move around. We had to walk the streets without protection, particularly when we wanted to go from East to West Beirut and back.

In East Beirut we lived in a big hotel—Alexander Hotel. We could go up on the roof during the day and at night and we watched what was happening—the bombardment, the shelling, the rockets exploding. Once in the night, while we were on the roof a rocket landed 100 meters away from us. That night we were witnesses to a terrible bombardment. Next day we visited West Beirut and saw the effects of the heavy bombardment. We walked through the streets and saw that houses were completely destroyed. This was very near the stadium, which had completely been destroyed earlier, and near the UNESCO office and the Arab University which also lay in ruins now. We visited some apartments where people had been the night before and saw that the only things that remained there were some personal belongings. In one of the houses where about 300 residents had lived and which was hit by a so-called vacuum bomb, only ten people survived that night.

In that district I could not see a single house which would not have been hit and completely or partially destroyed. In that area soldiers were moving but I could not see any military targets. This was a big residential area and there was no doubt, whatsoever, that it had been made an object of indiscriminate bombardment.

We saw also the weapons used. The different types of bombs had US markings. It was quite obvious that most of the weapons had come from the United States.

Living at the Alexander Hotel was rather strange. We were surrounded by Israeli agents and agents of the so-called Lebanese Forces (the Phalangists and their allies—*Ed.*) all the time, even when we were having our meals. There were also Israeli military personnel armed with guns sitting at nearly all the tables while we were eating. What were they doing? They had to watch everybody.

An Israeli journalist told me that he could not do anything without having a gun-carrying soldier around, telling him what he can do and how to do it. Everything had to be censored, including news to Israel.

I would like to say something about our trip to the South. It was on an early morning that we decided to go. We hired a car. We had not known the driver before, but he turned out to be a very good man who helped us a great deal. Most of the people whom we met and talked to were helpful.

On that trip to Ain El-Helweh, Damour, Sidon and the neighbouring area we saw the effects of heavy bombardment, mainly of residential areas. Our conclusion was the same as I had stated earlier concerning the districts around the stadium and the Arab University—indiscriminate bombardment.

It is said that about 60,000 Palestinians used

to live at Ain El-Helweh. When we arrived at Ain El-Helweh our driver did not even recognize the place. It had completely been destroyed by bulldozers. A schoolboy whom we met told us that we must go further if we wanted to see more. We did. And what did we see? Only women, old people and small children sitting among the ruins. When asked how it was that they had survived, they said that they had been away when the Israelis came. All the schools, five of them, were completely destroyed. A small hospital for the Palestinians was also completely destroyed.

We were told by two different sources in Sidon that between 14,000 and 16,000 people had been captured and taken to Israeli camps.

Just coming to Sidon we met a man—a Lebanese—who told us he had been detained in such a camp for 45 days. A hood had been kept on his head for nearly all the time, and he had been tortured. But Palestinians were tortured worse.

Some of those arrested were released later, mostly youngsters under 14. There was no doubt in our minds that this was a war of extermination against the Palestinian population. What was more, the effects of the war were such that it also meant extermination of a great part of the Lebanese population.

What kinds of weapons were used? First of all I must say that I have no evidence today about the accusations that napalm was used. We have not seen any victims of napalm. But this question must further be investigated. We have seen about 200 victims of cluster and phosphorus bombs in different hospitals. We have also seen victims of fragmentation bombs, and we have seen some victims of the so-called vacuum bomb. Accusations have been made that nerve gas was used. We have

seen suspicious cases perhaps, but we are not physicians and we cannot confirm these accusations. However, we have heard from different sources that nerve gas was used in the mountain areas.

The effect on the civilian population has been devastating. At one hospital an independent doctor told us that only one-third of the patients in the hospital were military. In another hospital, other independent doctors told us that three-fourths of those hospitalized were civilians.

Five hospitals out of 17 in West Beirut are closed. Most of the others are only partly functional. Only one hospital we saw was fully operational, having escaped bombing, and that was the American University Hospital. But even there they showed us fragments of bombs which had fallen nearby.

Somebody asked me what the needs of the medical people in West Beirut were. It is, as you may know, the need of clean water. There is a lack of food for people in the hospitals, a lack of personnel, medicines and so on. The blockade also affected the Red Cross, which had for 18 days been unable to get any supplies through. But the day we were in West Beirut a Red Cross man told us that that day they had been able to get a small convoy through.

The siege and blockade also have a psychological effect on all the population.

The hospitals in West Beirut have the Red Cross markings on them. We visited hospitals with such markings painted on their roofs and walls. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Israelis saw the markings. Israeli officials have told us that they knew exactly where the hospitals were situated even if there were no Red Cross signs on them. But still they were bombed. Our conclusion is that

they did not try to avoid bombing the hospitals as their duty required. This is a serious crime committed intentionally.

There is a risk of cholera and typhoid epidemics in West Beirut. Water is scarce and nobody knows if it is contaminated or not. We saw children, who had had no drinking water for a long time, drink dirty water.

There is some social and economic life going on in West Beirut. It is our opinion that tremendous efforts are being made to have things running, particularly to assure food supplies. I think the PLO and the others are doing a great lot in this respect.

The situation is terrible and intolerable, and it can never be justified. I think that the International Commission knows what kind of a crime is being committed. But allow me to make the following remark.

The war which was started in June is a war of aggression. Israel has invaded Lebanon clearly in violation of international law. This aggression must strongly be condemned. It is an aggression not only against the Palestinians but also against the Lebanese.

We met different officials—the General Director of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, the leaders of the Lebanese National Movement and Yasser Arafat. I must say that I had never met Yasser Arafat before, but I understood after speaking with him that the Palestinian people had a very good leader and I also understood that he is a very good negotiator. He will make use of every possibility to reach a peaceful solution and to save the population of West Beirut and the PLO forces in a just and honest way.

He told us that if such possibilities would really

be available he would like to reach an early solution. But he also said that the Israelis must realize that the Palestinians were not ready to leave the city on Israeli terms and would prefer to die in West Beirut rather than surrender.

It is clear that this has a genocidal character. As a lawyer, I will study it carefully as soon as I return home.

It is the duty of all mankind to stand up in defence of the people in Lebanon and to seek a just solution—to work and fight for the recognition of the PLO and a quick solution to the Palestine problem so that the Palestinian people can return to their homeland as soon as possible.

I would now like to touch on some aspects of international law applicable to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

The Israeli government has attempted to justify the invasion of Lebanon by invoking the right to self-defense. The military operation, which was initially called "Peace for Galilee", has been described as a peace-enforcing action. This argument is not supported by facts.

On June 4, 1982, an attempt was made to assassinate the Israeli ambassador to London. The act was immediately denounced and condemned by the PLO. Despite this, on June 4 Israeli forces bombarded Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon in retaliation, causing heavy civilian casualties. On June 5 Palestinian forces returned fire on Galilee, killing one Israeli soldier. The following day Israeli armed forces launched a full-scale invasion of Lebanese territory.

The use or threat of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any state other than in self-defense is illegal according to general international law and the United Nations

Charter. The right to individual self-defense may only be exercised by a state if an armed attack has taken place against that state, as defined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. International law does not permit anticipatory self-defense against a potential aggressor. Further, the force used in self-defense must be in accordance with the principle of proportionality.

Israel was not responding to an armed attack when it invaded Lebanon. It is apparent that the invasion must have been planned well in advance.

There is no legally valid justification for the Israeli invasion. The only conclusion supported by facts is that Israel has planned, initiated and is waging a war of aggression in Lebanon. The Israeli action obviously violates the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon. Official Israeli statements further strongly suggest that the war is directed against the political independence of Lebanon.

The ultimate aim of the war is to render impossible the realization of the internationally recognized Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Israeli government bears full responsibility for these grave violations of international law.

The United States government must also be held responsible for Israel's war of aggression and the illegal situation created by it as a consequence of its military aid to Israel and its blocking of effective measures by the United Nations through its Security Council.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon has caused enormous suffering to Palestinian refugees and Lebanese civilians and inflicted vast material destruction. Whole cities have been wiped out. Large areas of Beirut have been destroyed. Distinctively

civilian buildings and institutions, such as hospitals, schools and places of worship, have been mercilessly attacked by the Israeli forces.

It is a basic principle of international law that belligerents shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants, between civilian objects and military targets, and shall accordingly direct their operations only against military installations. This basic principle is expressed in various international conventions, such as the Fourth Hague Convention of 1907 and the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 1949. It was reaffirmed in the Charter and Judgement of the Nuremberg Tribunal which established individual criminal responsibility for such war crimes as wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity.

In 1977 a protocol additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 was adopted to reaffirm and develop the provisions concerning protection of victims of international armed conflicts. The protocol prohibits indiscriminate warfare, such as attacks which may be expected to cause casualties among the civilian population or inflict damage on civilian objects which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated. It is further stipulated that actions may in no event be taken against objects which may be expected to leave the civilian population with such inadequate food or water supplies as to cause its starvation or force its movement. This is precisely what has occurred as a result of the Israeli cutting off of electrical power, fuel and water to the besieged sector of Beirut.

Israel has not signed or ratified this protocol and is therefore not technically bound by its pro-

visions. There is, however, no doubt that the spirit of the provisions is binding upon Israel according to general international law.

The Israeli attacks against hospitals and places of worship are manifestly illegal.

Similarly, the use of such weapons as cluster and phosphorus bombs, which are indiscriminate, must be considered clearly illegal, at least when used in civilian areas. According to a protocol adopted by some 43 states at a UN conference in 1980, it is strictly prohibited to make any military installation located in a densely populated area an object of attack by air-delivered incendiary devices.

The violent and degrading treatment of Palestinians suspected of belonging to the PLO is clearly in violation of the principles of humanity and international law.

Many of the violations cited above are grave breaches of the 1977 protocol, in which it is stated that such breaches shall be regarded as war crimes. The Israeli violations of generally accepted rules of international law applicable to armed conflict are of such nature and magnitude that they should be regarded as war crimes. Israeli officers and men have a duty under international law to disobey orders which may result in such crimes.

Since Israel has started a war of aggression, its principal obligation is to withdraw its troops from Lebanon and thus put an end to the situation resulting from its intervention.

The Palestinians captured by the Israeli forces in the course of this illegal action must immediately be released.

Finally, Israel is liable to pay compensation for the death, suffering and destruction caused by its military actions in Lebanon.

STATEMENT BY DR. FRANKLIN LAMB, LAWYER (USA)

It is an honour to be here this afternoon and to share with you some findings of our delegation of Americans who had for the last two weeks been investigating in Beirut the use of American weapons by Israel. Before I become more specific with the findings I would just like to tell you—by way of introduction—that I have just arrived. We left Beirut late yesterday not knowing if we were going to be able to leave, much less with the materials. But we did get out and we came from Damascus on a flight.

By way of background, briefly, I'd like to explain the reasons for our trip. The group that comprise this delegation from Washington, D.C., all do work or have worked with the US Congress, or share an interest in the Middle East and in American foreign policy with respect to the Middle East.

We did not seek to be an official United States delegation and we have not indicated that we represent the United States. So it is more in the nature of a quasi-public or private research, even though we are doing it for particular members of Congress, who are quite concerned about this subject and some of whom have raised the issue before in the US Congress. So our intention is to

return now to Washington and to share with those particular members who are aware of the scope of our inquiry our findings, to brief the members of Congress on our findings, to distribute a written report to all the members of Congress, specifically, to Chairman of the House Committee on International Relations Clement O'Blacky and Charles Percy, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

With that background then, we spent two long weeks in Beirut, having prepared for it as best as we could before we left and having tried to establish the focus of our inquiry: two particular types of American weapons, the cluster bomb and the phosphorus bomb, the use of which is absolutely forbidden under the 1954 US-Israeli treaty, as well as under a more recent Amended US Arms Export Control Act of 1976. This is not to mention international customary law and the general principles of justice. The reason we wanted to investigate this matter was because under US law, if it is proven that Israel used these weapons in violation of either the 1954 treaty, a bilateral treaty, or of the US Arms Export Control Act, then, according to both these treaties, the penalty is to be the cutting off of the flow of the provision of these arms, either by gift or sale to the recipient, in this case, Israel. So you can imagine the enormous consequences which may follow if it is shown that these arms were illegally used and if the US Congress is informed of this. You may know that the State Department and the White House have stated that they are studying this question. President Reagan, within the past three weeks, has sent a cryptic message to Congress saying that Israel may well have violated the law "in a substantial way". Under the act, if there is a substan-

tial violation, the arms deliveries were to cease to the recipient country. So that is the legal background.

Now, the critics of US foreign policy in this respect and members of Congress have not been satisfied with the President's response or the State Department's or the Pentagon's lack of specificity on this point. There have been many letters written by members of Congress to the State Department, the Pentagon and the White House, demanding to know once and for all if there is or isn't a violation. If there is a substantial violation, then the law is clear. The President has the duty to uphold the Constitution of the United States and he must enforce the law.

We had to bring back not just evidence of the illegal use of these weapons to help these members of Congress, but overwhelming evidence that would persuade any fair-minded person about the nature of these violations.

There is irrefutable evidence, which will be presented to the US Congress, that the use of US weapons has not been merely occasional. It has been massive and it has not been primarily against military targets at all. It has systematically been focused on civilian concentrations. Our evidence of that follows from about 17 interviews with individuals at the sites of the bombings. I am thinking now primarily about cluster bombs the question of which was brought up by Congressmen McClausky and Finley some four years ago.

So we have interviewed people at the sites of these bombings. We have also visited 19 hospitals and clinics in West Beirut, a list of which I have and will make available to the Commission. From doctors at these hospitals and clinics we have re-

ceived over 100 sworn affidavits that we will present to the US Congress.

I don't want to take much of your time to read an affidavit, but I could make it available to the Commission. It is simply a legal form by which a doctor identifies himself and swears to the truth of a statement and attaches an X-ray, if it is available, indicating that he rendered medical services at particular medical facilities, on a particular date, naming the patient and giving a diagnosis of what caused that particular injury and in what geographical location. We thought it was important for our work to know exactly where a person was injured. Then also this was an opportunity for a particular comment by the physician concerned who was asked to print and sign his name, and to indicate again the hospital. So, we received over 100 affidavits, whereby a medical doctor swore that the wound he treated was caused by a US-supplied cluster bomb (which he would not necessarily have known, except that the doctors have almost become military experts), or that the patient he treated suffered from the effects of a phosphorus bomb.

How do you tell the difference between a phosphorus burn and a regular burn? What we learnt was that there are very unique characteristics of a phosphorus burn. For example, a patient will come in smouldering, literally smouldering. If you pour water on him—some doctors did that initially—the phosphorus will effervesce and it will be very difficult to stop the process. Sometimes doctors had to use sand or dirt to stop it. Doctors have to dig very deeply with this kind of wound. It has a particular smell and a particular colouring to it. These affidavits, which will be presented to Congress and, I think, to the White House, are offered by

us as very good evidence of the widespread and indiscriminate use by Israel of US-supplied weapons—cluster and phosphorus bombs. So this was one avenue of inquiry that we made.

Another one was that we gathered specimens—human flesh specimens—of tissue taken from a morgue or more usually from an operating room, showing human flesh having phosphorus embedded in it from phosphorus injuries, or burns from phosphorus bombs. We have a dozen of these samples, which came from the American University Hospital, the Lahut Hospital, or one of the other clinics. So we will offer this evidence to the American people and the US Congress to substantiate our findings that, contrary to claims by Israel, phosphorus and cluster bombs are indeed being used against the civilian population.

I don't have the full report and some of the data are still raw. But I feel safe in saying that a general conclusion of ours will be, once we analyze these data, that the military personnel are not the victims of phosphorus or cluster bombs, because as I imagine you know from your experience, the fighters are underground. If anyone is safe it is the PLO and the Lebanese National Movement—the Joint Forces. It is those who had no place to go, or the refugees who had moved maybe half a dozen times and decided to stay in their apartment for that night, that day, that were injured. Our evidence from the hospitals in Beirut indicates that most of the victims were civilians. I can tell you that I haven't seen young men who could be fighters, or any who could probably declare they were fighters, in these endless rows of beds occupied by the casualties. It is our conclusion that relatively few military people are hit by

these American weapons. This is the second aspect to our findings and our evidence.

A third area of investigation was designed for the American public, and the American Congress will look into this issue because those who had wanted to get some control on the US weapons with respect to Israel had a very, very difficult time. They faced an enormously powerful Israeli lobby that has been so often able to convince Congress and public opinion that black is white and white is black. When McClausky in 1978 raised the question of the use of cluster bombs and it was turned down, there was very little he could do about it. There has been an impression around Congress and around the country that the Israelis may have used these weapons, but it has been quickly and thoroughly denied by the Israeli lobby. So we felt that our duty was to return to the United States with samples of these weapons on the basis of which members of Congress and individuals could demand from the Pentagon and the US government an explanation concerning these weapons, which so far hasn't been forthcoming. I think we took six pages of serial numbers from fragments of US cluster bombs and containers with American markings. We can now ask the Pentagon for full information about what each of these numbers means, when the bombs were delivered and where they were manufactured. In other words, I think we can shed light on this subject, add to the information that has been available, and bring it to the knowledge of the American people and members of Congress.

We have brought samples of three kinds of cluster bombs. One kind—probably the most common one which you have seen—is round and has jagged edges. How does the doctor, a non-military

specialist, know when someone is injured by this or that kind of bomb? In this kind of cluster bomb the fragments are of a definite shape, so when the doctor has an X-ray facility he can tell the difference between a cluster fragment, which is a neat square, and a regular bomb fragment, which can be of any shape.

Then there are the regular American bombs—1,500-2,000 pound concussion bombs. They produce a very clear X-ray picture and there is overwhelming evidence of their use in Lebanon.

Cluster bombs are of different sizes. The one used most often which we saw and documented in 14 locations around West Beirut, is contained in a big white shell, about six feet tall which can hold 450 bombs. The Israelis also have one holding about 150 bombs with which they charge large guns. I believe we have only one sample of this kind with us.

The second type of cluster bomb results in what is called "Begin's amputations". This is a term used by the local community and it was also mentioned by some of the doctors giving evidence before the Commission. This bomb is stuffed with shards and when it explodes the shards are scattered at such great speed that they can cut right through a limb. We saw many such cases. So that is the second type of cluster bomb.

The third type is a shell holding altogether 400 small bombs. When dropped the shell opens under pressure scattering the small bombs, some of which explode on impact, while for others to explode a special ribbon has to be pulled. The reason these bombs are banned is that they can be picked up by children and you can imagine the consequences. I believe that most injuries have been caused by exactly this type of bomb.

So these, briefly, are the three types of cluster bombs that we found in over 14 locations. The Israelis advised the United States government about three and a half weeks ago that there had been some use of a weapon known as the cluster bomb but that it was purely against a military concentration. But we have found very credible evidence that on August 4, while we were there, there was substantial use of cluster bombs. And why do I say that? We had a reliable witness who took us to his home on August 7 and there we found a large white casing of the type I have described, which holds up to 450 bombs and which this witness had found in a street. He also had several cluster bombs some of which were unexploded. There were other reports on the same day.

Our conclusion is that on August 4 the Israelis used American cluster bombs in Beirut in a densely populated residential neighbourhood, despite Israeli assurances that if there had been some use of such bombs, it was against military concentrations and that they would not use them in the future. So that is, roughly, another of our findings.

We have also brought back some evidence for Congress and the Pentagon of some of cluster bomb fragments. We wanted to bring a whole bomb back, but you can imagine we would not have much chance of getting one out, so we brought some pieces. They have the inscription: "US Navy". We want to ask the Pentagon to explain when they were shipped and we think that it will help those who are interested in getting some control over US weapons to obtain proof that this was not an isolated incident. We came upon 64 of these canisters during the two weeks of our investigation. We want to know how many of these

were supplied to Israel and how many have been used and exactly on what date.

We have also brought some plastic labels for analysis. Several of these have clear US Air Force and US Navy markings. It may seem obvious to you here that these weapons are indeed being used. Not so in the United States where the Israeli lobby has been so effective that the population as a whole is dubious about it, and as I mentioned earlier, Congressmen who have raised this issue have difficulties persuading people and have had their credibility challenged. So we feel that this will aid their efforts.

Then we have a phosphorus bomb piece, which landed on August 4, between 1 and 3 p. m. in the office of the President of the American University in Beirut, and which we want also analyzed and offered as evidence of the use of US phosphorus bombs in Beirut. We also have some samples of phosphorus taken from various pieces of bombs and about 600 slides showing the locations where we found them.

We were able to take some photographs of the types of injuries that are caused by the cluster bombs and that require amputations. We have seen children as young as one or two and a lady in her 70s who have lost both legs because of the cluster bombs.

It is a fact that Beirut has become a laboratory for experimentation with weapons, most of which, we believe, are American.

We have also heard some very strange stories and testimonies about new weapons from civilians and military people, and I am not sure what our conclusions are going to be exactly. During the Sanaye Garden bombing we were at the house of

one of our witnesses, Mr. Malik. We heard planes. But many people did not hear anything. A massive eight-storey building collapsed. We arrived there shortly after the air raid and returned two or three times. The eight stories were reduced to about one-storey rubble. We were led by some civil defense people down along the basement—they had removed some of the rubble so we could crawl. There were cries from two different directions, moans of people trapped in there, and we were advised that there was no way that they could be helped. I would like to make this point. Even neighbours and knowledgeable people, even military and non-military who were close by did not hear the usual kind of tremendous blast preceding the destruction of this building, and it did not blow out, it caved in, it was in the nature of an implosion rather than an explosion. Some are calling it the vacuum bomb, others have another name for it. Some people call it a laser or smart bomb. We heard it called an implosion bomb.

We heard many stories about the so-called toy-bombs, and that is a very sensitive subject. We do have one photograph of an apple, a metal apple, that is painted green. It was found in Burj Al-Barajneh. There is a lot of speculation about pencils, little model airplanes, etc. There are testimonies that people, often children, had picked them up, and they had exploded. We have one person who is continuing the investigation there. We were promised some samples. So far we have this one photograph. We also heard that napalm was used, but we have no evidence of that. I think there is some confusion with the effects of phosphorus which burns in a similar way.

We also heard about some kind of chemical that has been described as cotton-candy or a hair-like

substance which was used in Beckaa, Sidon and Tyre, and which causes a tremendous rash and nausea, followed by vomiting and loss of consciousness. I don't know anything else about it. We also heard about the use of nerve gas, but we have no evidence.

A PRESS ACCOUNT

The London *Sunday Times* of August 8, 1982, published a horrifying account of the Israeli devastation of Beirut and its consequences for the thousands of civilians now trapped in the city. The full report was compiled by Robin Wright in West Beirut, David Blundy in East Beirut, Henry Brandon and Mark Hosenball in Washington and Phil Finnegan in Cairo. Printed below is an excerpt.

The Israelis explain the bombing of the city by saying that their only aim is to drive out the PLO, who are deliberately using civilian buildings to protect their gun emplacements and their ammunition dumps. The justification is becoming harder to sustain.

On Wednesday afternoon, a Lebanese woman, Maimonah, who was five months pregnant, was carried in on a stretcher to one of the many makeshift hospitals, with shrapnel wounds received during an attack that day on an exposed public garden where more than 1,000 refugees were huddled. Both her legs were amputated from the knee. Severe elbow wounds may cost her an

arm as well. "She certainly didn't pose a threat to the Israelis," observed the doctor treating her.

John de Sallis of the International Red Cross claims the civilian casualties are far out of proportion to the military presence in West Beirut. "Between one and four per cent of the population could be considered combatants. But at least 80 per cent of the casualties are civilian, both Lebanese and Palestinian," he said.

After surveying 66 separate areas hit last weekend, the Canadian Ambassador, Theodore Arcand, said the destruction "would make Berlin of 1944 look like a tea party."

Among the facilities hit by Israel over the past nine weeks are five UN buildings, 134 embassies or diplomatic residences, six hospitals or clinics, one mental institute, the Central Bank, five hotels, the Red Cross, Lebanese and foreign media outlets and innumerable private homes and office blocks. While some of these may conceivably have been used as cover by the PLO, what is much more striking is how many undeniable PLO facilities have remained intact.

A Lebanese health official said: "If attacking civilian sites is the Israelis' intent, then their public statements about going only for military targets are lies. If it is not intentional, then their claims of accuracy are grossly overrated. They cannot have it both ways."

Most disturbing of all is Israel's use of the phosphorus bomb—an incendiary weapon which on detonation throws up a distinctive white cloud. The Israelis have increased the use of these bombs, claiming they are useful as markers "so that aircraft and artillery can pinpoint targets."

But exploding phosphorus bombs and shells have other properties. Amal Shaaban, a 15-year-old Lebanese girl, was in a school shelter with other pupils when one of the bombs hit first the playground, then the shelter. "There were children in the playground; they were all killed," she said. "Then I felt a fire on my back. I tore off my dress and ran from the shelter."

The effects of phosphorus burning are sickening to behold. Early last week, a man in his late 40's was carried into Lahut hospital, covered with small phosphorus burns. An Oxfam American volunteer saw him. "The burns were right through his skin and subcutaneous tissue down to the charred muscles in his arms and chest. His left leg dangled off the operating table. His foot was burned off and the exposed cartilage was still smouldering. When his nose was pinched, puffs of smoke appeared from his lungs. He was burning inside for six hours. He will not survive."

In another well-documented case, twin babies who perished in a phosphorus attack had to be placed in a bucket of water in the hospital and left there overnight. But the phosphorus continued to burn and they were still smouldering as they lay on the mortuary table.

According to Dr. A. Tonneson, a Norwegian orthopaedic surgeon with one of the European medical teams in West Beirut, over 90 per cent of the casualties he treats are civilians and many of them have either multiple burns or shrapnel injuries. The phosphorus victims who do survive do so only after amputations.

Medical personnel now say there are further dangers of cholera and typhoid epidemics and even plague from the fast-multiplying rat population.

A British surgeon who asked not to be identified said the combined effect of so many people in a small area with dangerously unsanitary conditions was a time-bomb just waiting to explode. And before leaving West Beirut on the orders of the Canadian government Ambassador Arcand said simply: "It is truly a scene from Dante's Inferno."

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
ISRAELI CRIMES AGAINST THE LEBANESE AND
PALESTINIAN PEOPLES

NICOSIA 15-16 August 1982

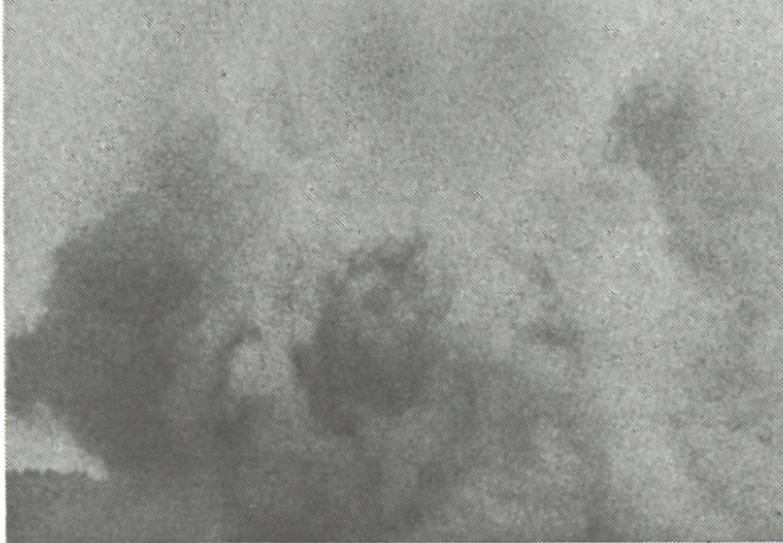
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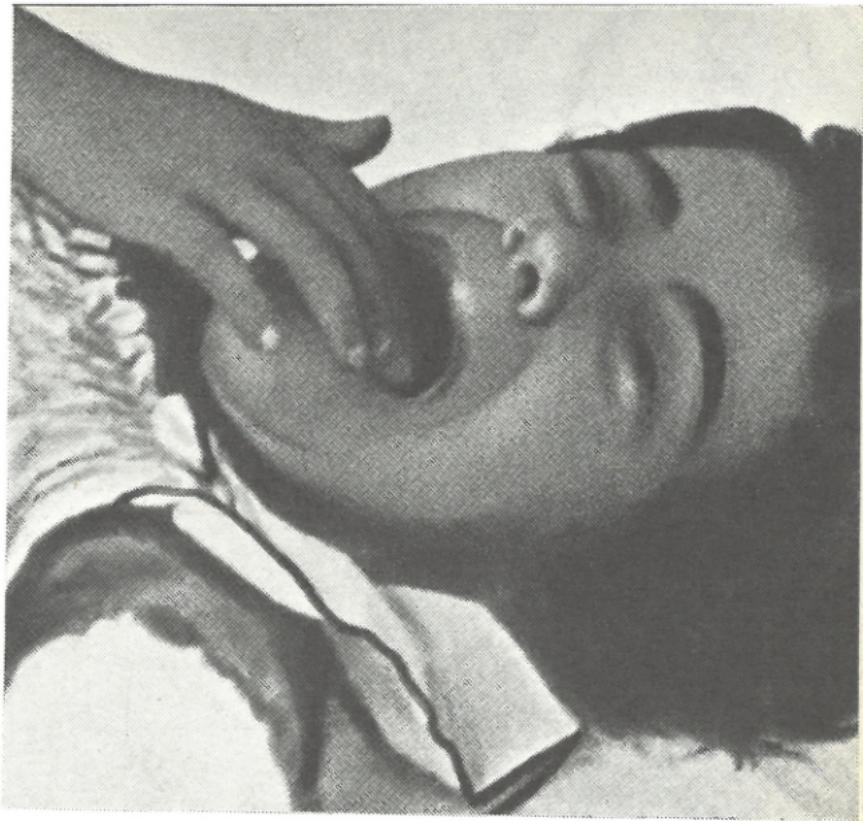


Nicosia. Chairman of the International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples, John Platts-Mills, prominent British lawyer and public figure, addressing a sitting of the Commission



Twenty people were killed and 130 injured, including a large number of children, when Israeli forces bombed the Palestinian Studies Center in Beirut









On the site of the Arab University after a bombing raid in West Beirut

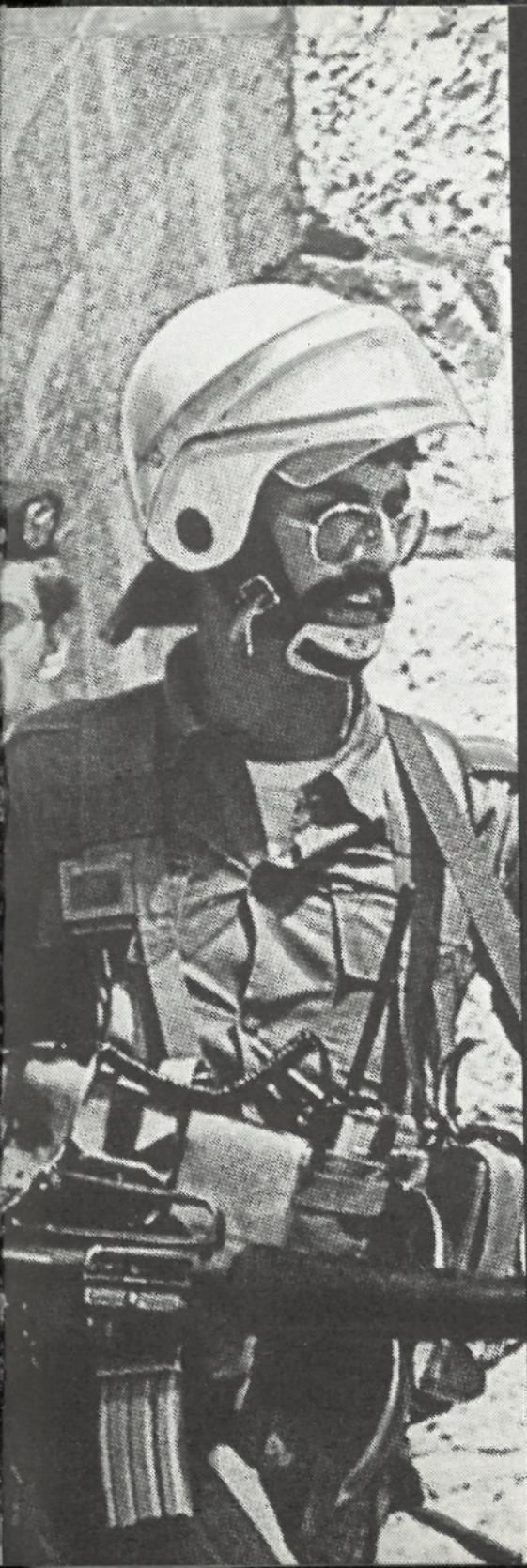


Evidence of Israel's use of mass destruction weapons

This debris is the result of the explosion of a vacuum bomb, a mass destruction weapon of a new type







A victim of mass arrests

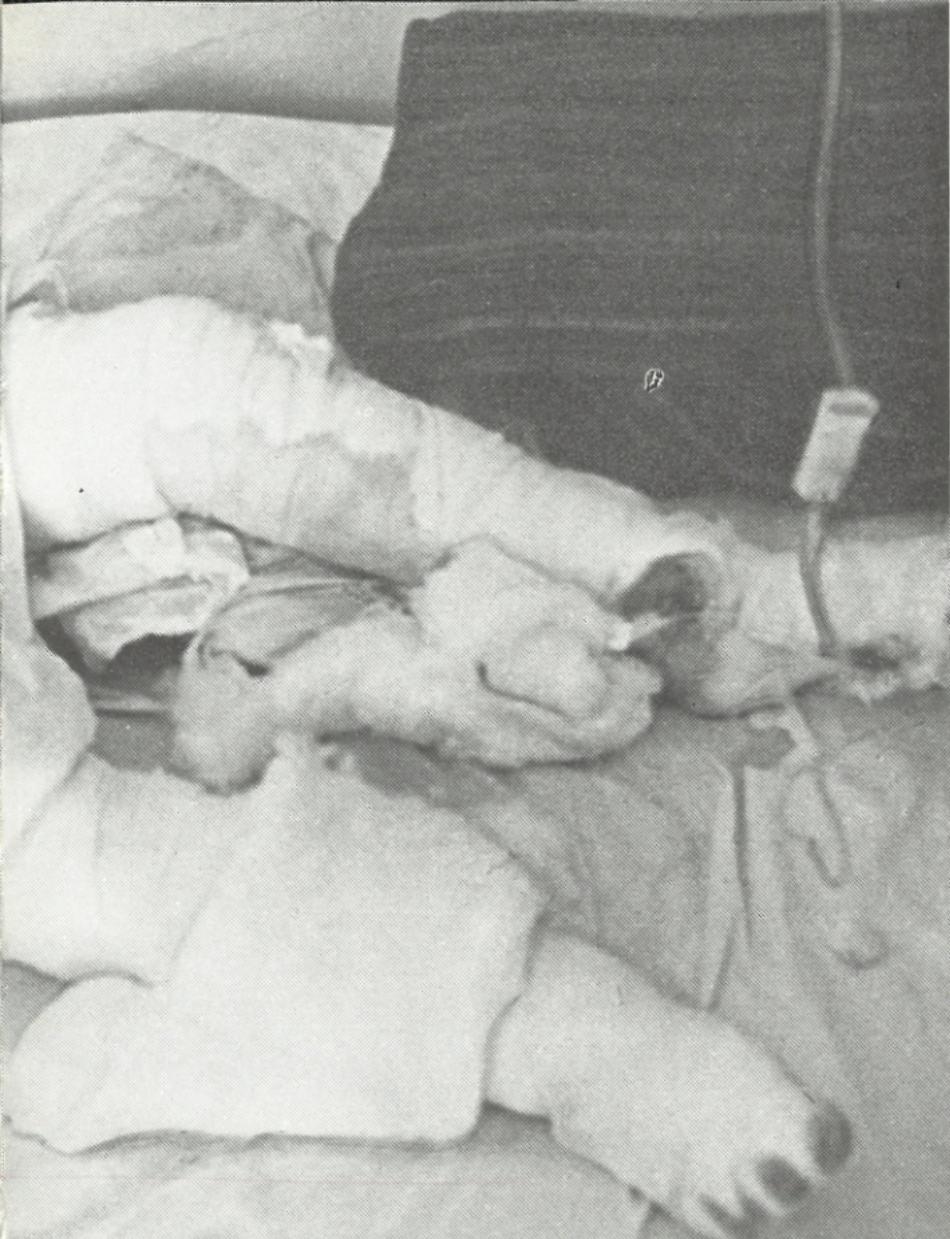




West Beirut: the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps

Tanks and armoured vehicles move in against the civilian population





A phosphorus bomb victim





These children are orphans

A Lebanese woman and her son, just two of the many civilian casualties



Israel's aggression and massacres among the civilian population of Lebanon have given rise to a worldwide wave of wrath and indignation: protest demonstration in Bonn



DOCUMENTS

Adopted by the International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes Against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples

PROGRAM OF ACTION

of the International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples

In accordance with the Statutes adopted at its constituent session and following the results of the work of its commissions, the International Commission of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples has decided upon the following program:

1. In order to carry out the tasks assigned to it, the International Commission will assume responsibility for:

a) sending delegations of experts to Lebanon and other countries to collect and verify facts and evidence;

b) examining reports, documents, testimonies and other evidence submitted to it by any national or international organization or individual;

c) requesting specialists to extend their help in the field of their competence.

2. Members of the International Commission will use any occasion offered to them to establish contacts with the media and other appropriate organs to inform world public opinion of the results of the Commission's work.

3. Through its Secretariat the International Commission will immediately establish contacts with other national and international commissions pur-

suing the same objectives, in order to develop co-operation and coordination with them.

4. The International Commission will also establish contacts with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly with UNESCO, the UN Human Rights Commission and the International Red Cross.

5. The subcommittees will hold working meetings when necessary.

6. The International Commission will hold its next session as soon as circumstances permit.

The following subcommittees are charged with the implementation of the Program of Action:

a) Legal Subcommittee:

Monique Chumellier-Gendreau (France)

b) Medical Subcommittee:

John Takman, M.D. (Sweden)

c) Cultural Subcommittee:

Mikis Theodorakis (Greece)

d) Subcommittee on Information:

Willi Sommerfeld (GDR)

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

of the International Commission

of Inquiry into Israeli Crimes

against the Lebanese

and Palestinian Peoples

On June 6, 1982, the regular Israeli troops invaded Lebanon and committed an act of aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. This invasion was to liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization primarily by killing as many Palestinians as possible. The aggressors killed, wounded and maimed dozens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians, predominantly women, children and old people; thousands upon thousands of people are missing, while close to a million have been left homeless or have been forced to flee from their native cities and villages. It was in cold blood that the invaders destroyed fourteen Palestinian refugee camps, three major cities in Southern Lebanon, and 32 villages.

* * *

The International Commission of Inquiry into the Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples met in Nicosia, Cyprus, on August 15 and 16, 1982. The Commission met at a time when events of exceptional gravity which violate all rules of international law are taking place in Lebanon due to the war of aggression

and extermination carried out by Israel against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

The Commission is an independent body responsible for its own activities and decisions. Its members took part in the work of the Commission as individuals, not as representatives of organizations or states. The functions of the Commission are to collect, hear and evaluate evidence within the scope of the inquiry for which it has been constituted.

The Commission was much impressed by the truthfulness and integrity of the witnesses who gave evidence before it and by the authenticity and genuineness of the documents produced before it. Before drawing its conclusions the Commission made it a point to be satisfied beyond doubt.

The Commission heard testimonies of many witnesses, who had actually observed the events in Lebanon. They included three members of the Commission itself: Paulette Pierson-Mathy (Belgium), Mikis Theodorakis (Greece) and Hans Göran Franck (Sweden), who had been sent to Lebanon before the meeting; members of Scandinavian, Greek, Dutch, Canadian, Finnish and French medical teams; social workers and journalists who had worked in or visited West Beirut; experts on military matters and on the lethal effects of the sophisticated weapons used by the Israelis in Lebanon; and witnesses from Israel itself.

The most detailed account of the effects of the invasion in Southern Lebanon came from the doctors and social workers who had worked in Nabatiyeh, Sidon and the refugee camp of Ain El-Helweh.

They described the terrible plight of the Palestinians and Lebanese who fled when their homes

had been destroyed only to be further bombed in the places where they had taken refuge.

The doctors also told about the effects of different kinds of bombs, particularly cluster and phosphorus bombs, on men, women and children, and the total destruction of the means of livelihood of people who were already on the verge of extinction. Dr. Chris Giannou (Canada) and Mr. Oyvind Moeller (Norway) described their arrest, together with Dr. Steinar Berge (Norway) by the Israeli forces, and their detention in Sidon and Magido. Though they were not themselves physically assaulted, they witnessed the inhuman treatment of prisoners—Palestinians, Lebanese and people of other nationalities—bound and blindfolded, forced to sit all day in the sun on tarmac surface, given very little food and water, and frequently beaten. Several prisoners died during the four days they spent in detention in Sidon. Dr. Franklin Lamb (USA) gave evidence of the use of cluster and phosphorus bombs made in the US against the civilian population.

From the Commission members who visited West Beirut and the doctors and journalists who went to the city in the last few weeks, came detailed accounts of bombings. The widespread indiscriminate character of the destruction was shown by many slides, samples of the different kinds of bombs used which had been photographed or brought to us. Many slides showed terrible wounds inflicted by phosphorus and cluster bombs, and the doctors described the difficulties they had experienced in treating the wounds. Burning phosphorus is hard to extinguish; it penetrates deeply and continues burning until the flesh is charred and destroyed.

It was clear that the large majority of those wounded and dead were civilians; it was a feature of the destruction that there were more dead than wounded. Slides showed also the difficulties of living in a city deliberately deprived at times of food and water and electricity; long queues for water, children filling vessels from polluted pools.

From Israel itself came reports of growing opposition to the war. This despite the fact that news on television and in the press in Israel does not show the character of the war or the effect of the bombs as it is revealed in other countries. Only slowly is information being brought by returning soldiers.

There is a considerable number of international legal acts applicable to the crimes Israel has committed in Lebanon, and among them, the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868, the Hague Convention of 1907 on the laws and customs of war on land, the Charter and Judgement of the Nuremberg Tribunal, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, the Geneva Convention of 1949 and the 1977 Supplementary Protocol and the Definition of Aggression passed by the UN General Assembly in 1974. Israel violates the ban on resort to force in international relations, proclaimed in the Kellogg Pact in 1928.

The State of Israel and its Zionist rulers are accused of the following criminal actions:

- I — Crimes against peace;
- II — Crimes against humanity;
- III — War crimes;
- IV — Actions designed to deny the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

Crimes against Peace

Having bombed and seized a substantial part of Lebanon, Israel went beyond merely violating the general prohibition of the use of force in international relations, as laid down in Article 2, Paragraph 4, of the UN Charter. It committed the following acts qualified as aggression in Article 3 of the Definition of Aggression, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 1974, Resolution 3314 (XXIX), which says:

“a) The invasion or attack by the armed forces of a State of the territory of another State, or any military occupation, however temporary, resulting from such invasion or attack, or any annexation by the use of force of the territory of another State or part thereof;

“b) Bombardment by the armed forces of a State against the territory of another State or the use of any weapons by a State against the territory of another State;

“c) The blockade of the ports or coasts of a State by the armed forces of another State...”

Israel has committed premeditated aggression and occupied the territory of Lebanon, a sovereign independent state and founding member of the United Nations, and is directly interfering in its internal affairs. We are forced to conclude that Israel is trying to install a “new order” in Lebanon serving its own interests.

It should be underlined that, as stipulated in Article 5, Paragraph 1, of the Definition of Aggression, “No consideration of whatever nature, whether political, economic, military or otherwise, may serve as a justification for aggression.” In the light of this article, Israel’s references to its

right to self-defense in conformity with Article 51 of the UN Charter, appear absolutely groundless. The latter article provides for a right to self-defense only in the event of an armed attack, and Israel was not the object of such an attack on the part of Lebanon. As to the actions of individual Palestinians to which the Israelis refer, these actions were justified as carrying out of their inalienable right to self-defense.

The UN General Assembly has denounced Israel's actions against the Palestinian people as aggression (Resolution 36/226 of December 17, 1981). We can add that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon has grown since 1967, and has been based on the Cairo Agreements of 1969. The presence of the Syrian troops in Lebanon as a part of the Arab peace-keeping force is based on the agreement concluded at the Riyadh summit on October 15, 1976, in Saudi Arabia. Six states, including Lebanon and the PLO, signed that agreement. The demand for the protection of the Arab forces has been made by the Lebanese President. Therefore, any act on the part of Israel against the Palestinian and Syrian forces in Lebanon can be considered as aggression against the sovereignty of Lebanon. The aggressive nature of Israel's actions was confirmed by the Security Council Resolution No. 509 of June 6, 1982, which demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon.

The Israeli aggression has led to the occupation and vast indiscriminate destruction of the greater part of the independent Arab state of Lebanon. It has also endangered its political independence. The Israeli aggression has become a serious threat to international peace and security.

Witnesses from Israel referred to the gradual

change taking place within an influential section of the people of Israel towards the hostile policy of their government to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The Commission is satisfied there is a rethinking among these sections about the justification and continuation of the aggression and the brutalities.

Crimes against Humanity

Having committed an unprecedented act of aggression against independent Lebanon, Israel and its leaders have embarked on a course of genocide against the Arab people of Palestine.

According to the definition contained in Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of December 9, 1948, genocide is defined as actions committed with intent to exterminate a national, ethnic, racial or religious group per se.

The Israelis have committed large-scale actions against the Palestinians which can be qualified as genocide.

The Israeli leaders do not conceal that the main aim of their actions is to liquidate the Palestine Liberation Organization and to exterminate or disperse the Palestinian people as a historical and ethnic entity.

As a result of the policy of genocide, the Palestinian inhabitants of Lebanon have been put into a position which endangers their very existence.

This is also proved by the fact that, according to the witnesses and documents, all Palestinian males from 16 to 60 years of age have been taken prisoner.

They are prisoners of war but they have been put into concentration camps where they are treated in a most cruel and degrading manner.

The Commission has received an eye-witness account of Israeli maltreatment of Palestinian prisoners of war from members of a Norwegian medical team. It has been informed of the extensive use of violence, of regular and systematic beatings, of degrading and inhuman treatment, of physical and psychological abuse against these men.

The military methods employed by the Israelis, their treatment of Palestinian prisoners of war and the new orders they have brought in with them into Lebanon's occupied regions, contradict a large number of norms of international law and by their very nature are war crimes.

Deliberate War Crimes against the Civilian Population. Bombing and Shelling of Peaceful Cities and Villages

1. Israel's military actions against the civilian population, the bombing and shelling of peaceful cities and villages violate:

- a) The St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 which obliges each side in a conflict to fight only against the enemy's armed forces;
- b) Article 25 of the Supplement to the Hague

Convention of October 16, 1907, which prohibits attacking undefended cities;

c) Article 6 of Section "B" of the Charter and Judgement of the Nuremberg Tribunal which equates destruction of cities and villages to a war crime;

d) Article 48 and other articles of the Supplementary Protocol of June 8, 1977, to the Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949, for the protection of war victims;

e) Resolution 2444 (XXIII) and 2675 (XXV) of the UN General Assembly prohibiting military operations against the civilian population.

The three-member group of our Commission confirms that as a result of the operations of the Israeli army, substantial parts of Beirut, Tyre, Nabatiyeh, Sidon and many other places have been destroyed and whole camps of the Palestinian refugees have been wiped off the face of the earth. Over 600,000 Lebanese have been left homeless and a critical situation created on the occupied territory of Lebanon. According to a report compiled by UN observers, some 300,000 Lebanese citizens and not less than 83,000 Palestinians need urgent help.

2. Use of cluster, phosphorus, fragmentation and other bombs

The use of cluster and phosphorus bombs, and of some other weapons is a violation of the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 and the Hague Convention of 1907, prohibiting the use of arms which cause unnecessary human suffering. Quite recently these weapons were included among those cov-

ered by the Supplementary Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Convention.

All witnesses stated that these horrendous weapons of mass destruction were widely used by Israel in Lebanon, and the majority of those who have suffered were civilians. There has been mention of even more frightening devices, such as the vacuum bomb. It is our duty to inquire further about those weapons.

3. Bombing of hospitals and clinics protected by the Red Cross and Red Crescent

This is a violation of one of the fundamental rules of humanitarian law reflected in a number of documents, particularly in Articles 18 and 23 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (August 12, 1949).

The Israeli military obstructed even the International Red Cross from rendering aid to the Palestinians and the population of Beirut.

4. Cutting off of food, water, energy and essential medical supplies to the civilian population

This represents actions against the civilian population prohibited by humanitarian conventions, namely, by Article 1, Paragraph I of the Supplementary Protocol which prohibits the causing of hunger among the civilian population as a method of conducting warlike actions.

Such Israeli actions were confirmed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution of July 30, 1982, demanding that the government of Is-

rael immediately lift the blockade of the city of Beirut and let through the supplies needed to satisfy the urgent needs of the civilian population and allow the distribution of aid delivered by UN Agencies and by nongovernmental organizations, especially the International Red Cross Committee (IRCC).

**5. Article 51, Paragraph 2
of the Supplementary Protocol prohibits acts
of violence or threat of violence aimed
at terrorizing the civilian population**

The Israeli leaders have widely used the threat of violence, especially during the siege of Beirut.

**6. The refusal to grant the status
of prisoner of war to Palestinian fighters**

This is a violation of Article 4 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (August 12, 1949).

The Commission was informed that the Israeli government is denying POW status and proper treatment to the Palestinians despite the fact that the Palestine Liberation Organization has reaffirmed that it abides by the Geneva Convention, of which it informed the Swiss Foreign Affairs Minister on June 7, 1982.

The refusal to grant Palestinians POW status also runs counter to the UN General Assembly Resolutions, in particular Resolution No. 3101 (XXVIII) of December 12, 1973, which demands that this status be granted to those who fight against foreign occupation and for their right to self-determination.

7. Cruel treatment of Palestinians, both combatants and civilians, captured by the Israeli forces

This is a violation of the basic provisions of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Article 13 of the former contains general provisions that prisoners of war should be treated humanely. It is prohibited, in particular, to maim them.

8. Preventing the authorities in the occupied territories to execute their functions

Such actions violate Article 54 of the Convention concerning protection of the civilian population in time of war, which forbids the captor power to alter the status of officials or judges.

9. The Israelis have systematically and purposefully shelled and destroyed the Beirut-based diplomatic representations of the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, France, Algeria, Canada and all Arab countries, that is to say, institutions which traditionally enjoy protection in times of armed conflicts.

10. The destruction of monuments and cultural and scientific institutions

This violates the provisions of the Hague Convention of May 14, 1954, and Article 53 of the Sup-

plementary Protocol on protecting cultural values in case of armed conflicts.

The Israelis have committed exactly such actions in Lebanon.

Israeli planes have systematically and deliberately destroyed the building of the Arab University and the Exhibition Hall of Palestinian art.

11. Violation of other rules of warfare

International law prohibits, in particular, any perfidious actions (Article 37 of the Supplementary Protocol).

The Israeli troops on numerous occasions have violated the cease-fire to regroup their forces, to replenish their supplies and fortify captured positions.

Denying the Palestinian People the Right to Self-Determination

Since the United Nations General Assembly adopted, on December 14, 1960, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, any subjection of peoples to foreign domination, any military actions or repressive measures against a people fighting for its right to self-determination should be viewed as a grave international crime. All the more so in the case of the Palestinians, since in 1974 the General Assembly adopted Resolution No. 3236 confirming officially the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

By their actions, primarily by their use of military force, Israel and its leaders aim to deny the

Palestinian people the right to self-determination and to establishing their own state. By occupying territory which belongs to this people, Israel has committed just this crime.

International Responsibility

The US as an accomplice in Israel's crimes

The United States of America is responsible for the violations of international law by Israel, since it is rendering Israel support in committing the above crimes.

This support includes:

- 1) Military aid by way of shipments of arms and modern technology; the US-Israeli Memorandum on Strategic Cooperation signed last year, providing for coordination of their operations in the Middle East;
- 2) Economic aid in the form of gratuitous assistance and big loans;
- 3) Political and diplomatic support for the Israeli aggression as reflected in resort to veto in the Security Council, particularly, the vetoing of the resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and the refusal to vote for a UN General Assembly resolution denouncing the Israeli aggression.

More than 50 per cent of Israeli exports to the European Economic Community (EEC) countries are covered by the system of preferential customs rates and credit benefits. This form of economic support to a state which continues its aggression against and occupation of Lebanon constitutes a form of indirect support, whereas

historic precedents show that aggression should be met with immediate sanctions. We call upon the US and the EEC, in particular, to act accordingly.

On the Responsibility of the Organizers and Inspirers of the Crimes in Lebanon

The above-mentioned international norms are binding upon Israel both from the standpoint of international treaties (with regard to Israel the Geneva Convention came into effect on June 6, 1951), and from the standpoint of accepted standards of international relations which have become part of international law.

Israel's responsibility acquires even graver character due to its refusal to implement the mandatory decisions of the Security Council.

The general legal principle of liability for offences committed should be applied to international crimes on an even stricter basis, because such crimes jeopardize international peace and security and lead to incalculable economic and moral losses on the part of the countries and peoples concerned, and undermine international law and order.

With regard to Israel's aggression against Lebanon the International Commission believes that there are special relationships existing between the UN and Israel, since Israel is the only state that achieved statehood and acquired territory through an act of this international organization. It was the only state in the world which was created in accordance with the desire of the interna-

tional community. The resolution admitting Israel to the UN stated in clear terms that the State of Israel would unreservedly accept and abide by the UN Charter. It is, therefore, Israel's special responsibility and international obligation to honour all the decisions of the UN Security Council and General Assembly and observe the rules of international law. Any violation of the Charter and international law by Israel is indefensible.

Conclusions

The International Commission demands an immediate stop to Israel's aggression against Lebanon and to the siege and blockade of West Beirut. It demands an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon, a stop to the genocide of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples and an immediate release of all prisoners of war.

The International Commission denounces and condemns Israel's crimes against peace and humanity, its war crimes, and its violations of international law. It condemns Israel's denying the Palestinian people the right to self-determination.

The International Commission warns that all those directly or indirectly responsible for transgressions and violations of international law and for crimes against humanity, will have to answer before the bar of international justice.

The International Commission, in keeping with the well-known rule that a criminal must repair the damage he has done, also demands that Israel should be made to pay reparations.

The International Commission appeals to all governments and their leaders, to all Parliaments of the world, to nongovernmental organizations, to trade unions, to all believers of the world and to

all peoples, to express their solidarity and render material, diplomatic, political and moral support to the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The Commission appeals for urgent medical supplies and for humanitarian aid to the victims of aggression.

The International Commission declares that no just and permanent peace can be achieved in the Middle East, unless Israel withdraws totally and unconditionally from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, unless the Palestinian people are granted their inalienable right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state, unless the Palestine Liberation Organization is recognized as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon are guaranteed.

The Commission owes a debt of gratitude to the government and people of Cyprus for their ready cooperation and assistance to it in holding its sittings at short notice in the city of Nicosia and for the warm welcome and hospitality it has received.

APPEAL

to the Churches and Religious Organizations of the World

We have listened for two full days to testimonies and examined documents about the war going on in Lebanon, and it appears that the cruelty, inhumanity and brutality of it are even greater than we have thought before. Innocent civilians, women and children, have been killed in thousands. Hundreds of thousands have lost their homes and are still threatened by hunger and diseases.

Life is a sacred gift. No nation and no individual may violate the human right to life. The world cannot let cruelty continue. For religious people the situation in Lebanon must be a strong challenge to show what their religious commitment is worth.

We demand that an immediate stop to cruelty be put and that this question be raised with utmost urgency by our churches and governments. We must compel the responsible authorities immediately to open serious, honest and constructive negotiations.

Much needs to be done now. Prayers must take the form of practical aid. Strong protests must be voiced against cruel weapons, such as the phosphorus and cluster bombs. To be silent about the

brutality and the continuation of this war makes us all accomplices in the cruelty.

The time has come to let the prophesy be fulfilled, the prophesy about swords being turned into ploughshares. It is in our power to make that prophesy come true.

APPEAL

to the Soldiers and Officers of the Israeli Army

Since the day the Israeli aggression in Lebanon began the world has witnessed acts of terror, untold suffering and loss of life of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. The Israeli invasion army is taking part in a brutal criminal action. The Palestinian and Lebanese peoples have been suffering an unprecedented onslaught by the Israeli army, air force and navy.

The Israeli government arrogantly and openly advertizes its intention to annihilate the Palestinian people and continue its indiscriminate destruction. Thousands of civilians, elderly people and children are burnt to death or buried in the ruins of buildings flattened by the most sophisticated internationally banned destructive weapons.

The International Commission, at its first session in Nicosia (Cyprus) held on August 15-16, 1982, heard testimonies concerning these savage crimes.

Such activities constitute a flagrant violation both of international law and of the humanitarian principles universally accepted since the end of World War II. The Commission considers it its duty to remind you that such violations, even when committed on the orders of the highest mil-

itary authorities, do not absolve those committing them of responsibility before their own conscience and before humanity.

This principle rests on historical precedents which cannot be ignored.

We call on your conscience to help to stop this terrible war in Lebanon in which you are involved. You cannot ignore the grave consequences of this war for the two martyred peoples—the Lebanese and Palestinians.

Think about it also for the sake of the Israeli people, for the sake of the future of all humanity.

APPEAL

to Medical Workers of the World

We heard witnesses in Nicosia on August 15 and 16, 1982, and received convincing evidence that three modern weapons, all banned by recent international conventions, are being used extensively by the Israeli forces in Lebanon.

These weapons are designed to injure and destroy exposed civilians, and not protected troops or buildings. They are the phosphorus, cluster and fragmentation bombs. Some of the types were tested in Vietnam and were at once banned.

A number of doctors and medical workers from Greece, France, Scandinavia, Canada and Holland have had direct personal experience of treating the resulting wounds and one investigator was able to show more than 100 affidavits from doctors in 19 hospitals in West Beirut testifying to attempts to treat sufferers from phosphorus or cluster bombs.

Phosphorus bombs are highly inflammable and poisonous. When the bomb or shell explodes it sprays the contents which liquefies and ignites and spreads at high speed over a considerable area. It burns and bores into living flesh sustained by the oxygen in the tissue. The burn and its treatment cause intense pain and danger. Internal smouldering continues for hours after the patient's

death and cases are known where it has continued for three days. The wounds are most difficult to treat and take a very long time to heal.

The cluster bomb canister may contain up to 450 small bombs which are spread over an area within a 100-metre radius. Depending on their design, these small bombs explode either on impact or when interfered with. Each of them emits up to 100 pellets flying about one meter above the surface at great speed. They are ideal for killing exposed civilians and especially children.

The new type of fragmentation bomb emits at high speed thin metal shards which penetrate deep into the body causing terrible injuries, which require amputation of the limbs well above the place of penetration, or internal injuries, which cannot be treated at all.

There is ample evidence that all these weapons are deliberately used against residential areas and even against hospitals in daytime when their markings are clearly discernible.

West Beirut is in a ring of Israeli tanks and ships. No medical supplies or food can be brought in without permission and permission is refused.

Supplies of blood, plasma and oxygen and basic medicines are stopped at the gates of West Beirut. Even the International Red Cross and relief organizations have not been able to get through.

This is total blockade. The occupation troops are cynically letting the population and the patients in hospitals starve, while not allowing them to leave and continuing the bombings all the time.

We are calling on all of you to do all you can to help.

APPEAL

to Medical Associations, Health Organizations and World Public Opinion

During the last two and a half months, the population of Lebanon, subjected to the Israeli invasion, has suffered from the use of three types of modern weapons by the Israeli army, and in West Beirut the situation has been even more grave owing to the prevention by this army and its Lebanese allies of delivery of medical supplies. The three types of modern weapons used in Lebanon by the Israeli army are the phosphorus, cluster and fragmentation bombs.

The so-called white phosphorus contained in bombs and shells is a highly inflammable and poisonous substance. When such a bomb explodes, either on impact or in the air or by a delayed action mechanism on the ground, the phosphorus ignites in the air and at the same time liquefies and the small drops of liquid burning phosphorus disperse covering a considerable area. The substance can penetrate clothing and deep into flesh, causing great pain and resulting in a dangerous wound. Phosphorus embedded in the flesh continues to burn slowly, sustained by the oxygen in the living tissue, thus enlarging the wound internally and increasing the suffering. Cases are known in which the process of internal burning

has continued for three days. Furthermore, most of the chemical compounds of phosphorus produced by this diabolical process are highly poisonous. Therefore, the wounds caused by phosphorus, even if quite small at the outset, are very difficult to treat. The healing process is very slow and the wound is very dangerous to the general health of the patient, especially in the case of a child or a person suffering from malnutrition.

Cluster bombs contain many small bombs which are spread over an area of over one hundred metres in radius. The small metal or plastic pellets released on explosion penetrate deep into the body, causing open or internal wounds.

Some of the small bombs do not explode on impact but remain on the ground to explode when they are picked up. They constitute a terrible danger to small children and rescue teams.

Fragmentation bombs send out multiple shards at a very high velocity, causing severe damage to tissue far beyond the place of entry. The result in many cases is the need to amputate whole limbs, or in case of an internal injury, the patient dies a lingering death. According to reliable witnesses, all these weapons have been used by the Israeli army and even against hospitals.

We appeal to all of you and to all the governments of the world to do all you can for the immediate enforcement of the ban on the use of such horrible weapons by Israel in Lebanon.

Another cause of concern is the great suffering of the population of West Beirut, besieged by the Israeli army and its Lebanese allies, the mercenary troops of Haddad and the Phalange, who prevent or delay delivery of the most essential supplies. The deliveries are stopped at the gates of

West Beirut for days on end, because of what is described as "bureaucratic delays". Even the International Red Cross and other international relief organizations are powerless to overcome these illegal delays, and this causes much death and suffering among children, the wounded, the ill and the disabled. We appeal to all of you urgently to exert pressure on those concerned, so that such delays no longer occur in occupied Lebanon.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SITTING OF THE MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Eduard Babayan	Doctor of Medicine	USSR
David Henley	Department of Pediatrics University of Uppsala Hospital	Sweden
Joachim Berndt	Surgeon	GDR
Nikolai Atanasov	Plastic surgeon	Bulgaria
Eduardo Moradas Ferreira	Neurosurgeon	Portugal
Fady	National Lebanese Movement	Lebanon
Sergei Kuznetsov	Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee	USSR
Hambis Kyriakou	Physician, Member of the House of Representatives	Cyprus
Facine Bangoura	Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization	Guinea
Vladislav Teryayev	Surgeon	USSR
Jihad Chamas	World Federation of Trade Unions	Lebanon
Ivan Garelov	Journalist	Bulgaria
Mikis Theodorakis	M.P., Member of the International Commission of Inquiry	Greece

Constantinos Alexiou	Surgeon, Representative of PASOK Party	Greece
Evangelos Maheras	President of the Athens Bar Association, Member of the International Commission of Inquiry	Greece
Joan McMichael	Pediatrician	Britain
Phan Khak Quang	Professor of Medicine	Vietnam
Helmut Copaike	Psychologist	Federal Republic of Germany
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Linda Murray	Physician	USA
Joyce Goodplatte	Physician	USA
Michel de Smedt	Physician	Belgium
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Vangelis Kouris	Democratic Lawyers' Association, Athens	Greece
Lilika Vasilakou	General Confederation of Labour of Greece	Greece
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Christos Logaras	Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece	Greece
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Asimakis Kefalas	Communist Youth of Greece	Greece
Platon Kyriakides	Councillor, Cypriot Embassy in Athens	Cyprus
Shawqi Armali	PLO representative	PLO
Giorgos Dolianitis	President of the Anti-imperialist League	Greece
Spyridon Paloglou	Representative of the Communist Party of Greece	Greece
Franklinos Papadellis	President of the Athens Medical Association	Greece
Vasilios Lazanas	Representative of the Greek Writers' Association	Greece
Ioannis Mouzourakis	Association of Doctors of IKA	Greece
Zacharias Ouranos	President of the Association of Hospital Doctors of Athens and Piraeus	Greece
Miltiades Samartzis	President of the Panhellenic Medical Association	Greece
Nikos Fotiades	General Secretary of the Greek Committee of International Democratic Solidarity	Greece
Vasilis Papadionysiou	Vice-President of the Greek Committee of International Democratic Solidarity, Mayor of Galatsi	Greece
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Demetrios Marakas	Greek Committee of International Democratic Solidarity	Greece
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Georgios Tsapogas	General Secretary of the Peace Committee of Intellectuals and Artists	Greece
Panos Trigazis	General Secretary of the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace	Greece
Thanasis Lengas	Physician	Greece
Ali Elabani	Popular Bureau of Libya	Libya
Aris Sisouras	Director, IKA	Greece

PROGRAM OF ACTION

of the Medical Subcommittee

The Medical Subcommittee, having made a general review of the Israeli crimes committed against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, with the support of the United States:

1. Proposes to the International Commission to proceed to extend the scope of its work by taking concrete practical measures to put an end to the crimes being committed in Lebanon.

2. Believes that such measures should include:

a) dissemination of correct information regarding the situation in Lebanon by using the possibilities of the press, television, radio, cinema and so on, in order to inform world public opinion of the crimes committed and to refute the distorted information given by Israel and its allies;

b) sending of missions of architects, engineers, doctors, nurses, cultural workers and journalists to Lebanon in order to meet the immediate needs of the people following the Israeli aggression;

c) sending of lawyers to defend the human rights of prisoners held in prisons and in concentration camps both in Lebanon and Israel;

d) the convocation of the international tribunal in order to try Israel as a war criminal;

e) increase of medical assistance to the Pales-

tinian people directly through the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Lebanese victims of Israeli aggression, particularly through the Secours Populaire Libanais, in cooperation with the Lebanese authorities.

3. Calls on all the mass organizations to take an active part by organizing meetings and lectures, and by showing documentary films at places of work, both in Greece and other countries, so that people are informed of the crimes committed in Lebanon and can help in the restoration of peace in Lebanon and the vindication of the Palestinian and Lebanese patriots.

4. Believes that a delegation of the International Commission of Inquiry into the Israeli Crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian Peoples should submit testimonies to the United Nations.

5. Appeals to the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other international, regional and national organizations to consider the gravity of the threat to world peace as a consequence of Israeli expansionism, and to take appropriate measures to put an end to Israeli aggression.

CONCLUSION

Drawn by the Medical Subcommittee

The sitting of the Medical Subcommittee held in Athens on November 20-21, 1982, with the participation of 58 delegates from 17 countries, and three international organizations, after hearing testimonies of doctors, other medical personnel, lawyers and journalists, who worked in Lebanon and gave medical treatment to the victims of the Israeli aggression or visited medical establishments which had been destroyed or damaged; and having analyzed the evidence submitted, has reached the following conclusions:

1. The Israeli invasion in Lebanon, carried out with the full support of the US, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.
2. The atrocities and indiscriminate bombings against the civilian population took on dimensions surpassing the limits of genocide.
3. The cutting off of such basic supplies as water, electricity, foodstuffs and even blood to the besieged part of Beirut, and the siege of this city with hundreds of thousands of inhabitants constitute an infringement on fundamental human rights.
4. The violation of every basic human right is also proved by the ruthless bombardment from air,

sea and land of residential areas, refugee camps and other civilian targets, such as hospitals and even cemeteries.

5. The witnesses who spoke at the sitting proved the use of napalm, phosphorus, fragmentation and cluster bombs, toy and vacuum bombs, all banned by international conventions. The use of these bombs results in a great number of casualties among the civilian population, including infants and children under the age of seven. Those attending the sitting are convinced that both the country of Lebanon and its population have been used to test the efficiency of the most sophisticated US weapons. This constitutes a most flagrant violation of the provisions of the St. Petersburg Declaration (1868), the Hague Convention (1907) and the Supplementary Protocol (June 10, 1977) to the Geneva Conventions on the Protection of War Victims (August 12, 1949).

6. The siege and blockade of the city, the explosions, the mock bombings, the dropping of threatening leaflets and the booby-traps were elements of the aggressor's psychological warfare, which has caused many psychological problems, especially among children.

7. The planned, systematic and mass bombardment of hospitals and other buildings bearing the emblems of the Red Cross and Red Crescent is a gross violation of several international conventions, including the Geneva Conventions regarding the protection of civilians. The witnesses gave testimonies concerning specific cases of destruction of hospitals and clinics, of arrests and murders of doctors and medical staff, of the killing and injuring of hospitalized patients, both civilians and combatants, of destruction of first-aid centers, medical vehicles and medical equipment in general.

8. Hospital conditions for the injured were very bad, because hospitals were being bombed and could provide no security. Lack of medical supplies and equipment, the reduced numbers of medical and para-medical personnel, lack of electricity, water and blood, caused insurmountable difficulties, resulting in a high rate of mortality and high percentage of postoperative complications.

9. The mass destruction of medical establishments, such as Barbir, Akka, Gaza, Makkassed and many other hospitals and clinics in Southern Lebanon, the creation of various obstacles and prevention of medical personnel and official health bodies carrying out their duties resulted in a complete paralysis of the health care system in the occupied regions. All this, together with the occupation of the Lebanese Ministry of Health, constitutes a violation of the Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Population, which forbids the occupying power to modify the status of officials (Art. 54).

10. We must say that the position of the International Red Cross is puzzling and negative. Throughout the war in Lebanon it has failed either to take action or fulfil the goals for which it had been founded.

11. Israel's refusal to assign POW status to Palestinian and Lebanese fighters, the torture and cruel treatment of civilians captured by the occupation forces, their detention in prisons and concentration camps constitute a violation of the basic provisions of the above Geneva Conventions. The violation of the privacy of the home, the repression of all trade union and political activity, the disruption of economic activity, as well as the silencing of every democratic expression, violate the sovereign rights of the Lebanese people.

12. The continuing occupation of the sovereign territory of Lebanon by Israeli troops and Israel's efforts to conceal the fact and nature of its crimes against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples impede a full and detailed investigation of the true dimensions of the crimes against humanity and the violation of human rights.

13. We express our concern over the attitude of the tripartite peace-keeping military force in Lebanon toward Palestinian and Lebanese patriots, following the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

14. The Israeli aggression in Lebanon can be classified as a grave international crime, violating established international conventions and international law, and causing unnecessary suffering both to fighters and the civilian population.

INDICTED FOR CRIMES

